Hafa Adai!

NMI-filmed movie is accepted into LA Film Festival. PAGE 8
HANMI hotel occupancy at 77 percent in March. PAGE 9

75¢

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IPI takes over Mariana Resort

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LCC has already received a notice from the Department of Public Lands that allows the casino operator to manage and operate the entire Mariana Resort & Spa starting mid-May.

IPI president and CEO Mark Brown disclosed this yesterday during a Commonwealth Casino Commission board meeting at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Technology Room in Susupe.

"…We are stepping in and we are going to manage the property. We will take care of the Mariana Resort, the golf course, go-kart area, pool area, and the entire site. …We received a letter that we were selected and that's Step 1. Step 2 is sitting down with DPL and trying to figure out what is expected of us," Brown said.

He clarified, though, that IPI is not leasing the Mariana Resort lot.

"It is not a lease agreement as we are just renting the land and managing it for DPL and for the island. Our plan is to lease in the future but, for now, we feel we are helping the island as we maintain this land for DPL as DPL doesn't have the money to take care of the golf course, so IPI is jumping in," Brown added.

IPI is the exclusive casino license holder on Saipan and part of its casino license agreement is the development of the Marpi area, referred to as Phase II of their plan. "This is what

See IPI on Page 4

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LCC CEO and president Mark Brown talks about plans and the current progress of the Imperial Palace Saipan construction. BEA CABRERA

'B&Bs are welcome but…'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For a start, they have to be safe. And they have to pay taxes.

At least those two things must be complied with by bed-and-breakfast establishments in the CNMI, according to Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce yesterday.

She stressed that the MVA considers these informal lodging homes for tourists—called bed-and-breakfast, or B&B—as a welcome addition to the tourism industry, but they must comply with all laws that are im-

See B&BS on Page 4

DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS

Street Market cancelled yesterday

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The weekly Thursday night Street Market was cancelled yesterday due to safety concerns as strong winds threatened the vendors' tents, according to Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture executive director Parker Yobei.

"It was too windy. It wasn't safe for the tents to be set up," he said, adding that his staff were setting up the tents for the Street Market early Thursday morning.

See MARKET on Page 4

Students walk along the pathway between tents at the temporary campus of Hopwood Middle School. REICA RAMIREZ

School life in tents

By REICA RAMIREZ
reicajramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Six months after Super Typhoon Yutu pummeled Saipan and Tinian in October 2018, many students and teachers alike have slowly adjusted to a "new normal" of having classes in temporary tents and going to school in temporary campuses.

Some families actually still go home to temporary homes too—many in tents provided under the federal government's TETRIS, or Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support, program.

No wonder, then, that up to now,

See SCHOOL on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Pacific Air Forces airmen and aircraft participate in a dispersal exercise.
PAGE 13

ASIA
Japan's upcoming new emperor will bring a global perspective to an ancient institution.
PAGE 21

LIFE & STYLE
By any measure, the release of "Avengers: Endgame" is a movie event unlike any other.
PAGE 24

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Local

'CUC working on 5-year plan'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is in the midst of preparing a work plan for the agency that will guide its growth in the next five years.

In fact, there is already an early draft of the plan, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho last Wednesday at a CUC board meeting.

Camacho disclosed in his executive report that the draft of the five-year work plan still needs refining and needs additional write-ups of project descriptions.

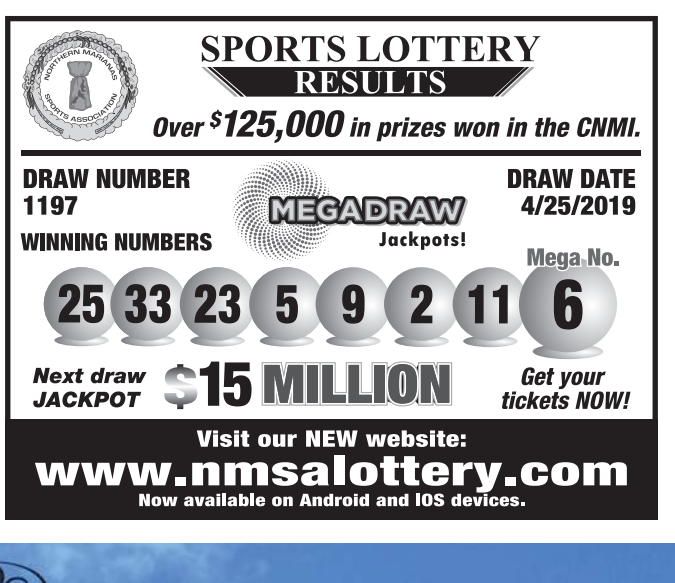
"There's a lot. We have done quite a bit on the water side," Camacho said.

On the electric power aspect, he said the slowed that down a bit to see first where the restoration efforts would take CUC, considering that they would soon get a supply of another thousand power poles.

"What I'm doing is just crossing out things," he said.

He said that, as he had earlier mentioned, they want to make sure that they also have the figures for the cost of the list of things that they plan to do.

Last March, CUC board treasurer Matthew Holley underscored the need for the agency to have a five-year plan when he made a motion to approve the renew Camacho's two-year contract as executive director. The board agreed with Holley. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



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Olympic swim medalist dips into Marianas spearfishing

Japan Olympic swimmer Takeshi Matsuda, left, learns about indigenous Chamorro fishing practices while filming "Menkyo-Kaiden" (having full mastery) with Fuji TV on March. 15, 2019. MVA

Japan's Fuji TV is shining a spotlight on spearfishing in the Marianas this month with Olympic medalist swimmer Takeshi Matsuda.

Matsuda will be featured exploring indigenous Chamorro culture on the 30-minute program *Menkyo-Kaiden*, which means "having full mastership.

While on Saipan in mid-March, Matsuda received several days of spearfishing training with local spearfishing master Felix Sasamoto and local company Aqua Smith at Laulau Beach, Obyan Beach, Lower Base Beach, and other locations. The program will also feature the natural environment of Saipan and a history of fishing in the Marianas.

"It's wonderful and important to see the return of Japanese media to the Marianas, evidence of their renewed interest in the market with the commencement of direct flights from Japan by Skymark Airlines," said acting Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Judy Torres. "As with our other source markets, the MVA will continue to extend its full support to these types of [familiarization] tours that generate an exponential amount of positive media coverage and public awareness for our destination."

The Marianas show is scheduled to air on April 27, 2019. While spearfishing is largely restricted in Japan, there is public interest in the sport. *Menkyo-Kaiden* reaches an estimated 9.7 million people daily and will bring an estimated $750,000 in ad value to the Marianas. ***(MVA)***

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Scheduled power interruptions

There will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Monday, April 29, 2019 — 8:30am to 9am**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Sky Chef to ARFF Facility
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: As Terlaje, Dandan and Kannat Tabla may be affected depending on tank level
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace five wooden poles with concrete ones
- **Wednesday, May 1, 2019 — 8:30am to 1:30pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: As Terlaje, Dandan and Kannat Tabla may be affected depending on tank level
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete ones
- **Friday, May 3, 2019 — 8:30am to 1:30pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: None
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: As Terlaje, Dandan and Kannat Tabla may be affected depending on tank level
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace sevenwooden poles with concrete ones
- **Sunday, May 5, 2019 — 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Chalan Kiya
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Chalan Kiya
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace one wooden pole with a concrete one

The purpose of these power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 20 wooden poles with concrete ones.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

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CUC short by $8.3M in Q2

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. failed to meet its projected revenue of $27.9 million in the second quarter of fiscal year 2019 because of Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation.

CUC budget officer Corina Magofna disclosed that the agency's expected earnings in the second quarter was short by $8.3 million due to the restoration efforts in the months of January, February, and March this year.

Yutu devastated Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25.

"For operating expenses, we underspent by a million dollars," said Magofna in her presentation about CUC's financial updates during CUC's board meeting last Wednesday.

CUC's projection for personnel and operating expenses and capital outlays was $27.8 million for the second quarter, but it spent only $26.8 million.

On the status of Yutu expenses as of March 31, 2019, Magofna said they recorded a total of $16.9 million worth of expenses.

"Out of that, we already paid $15.5 million to our vendors," she said.

That means CUC still owes its vendors $1.36 million.

» CUC gets $6.3M reimbursement from FEMA, still has remaining balance of $7.7M

Out of the $16.9 million in CUC expenses for Yutu, it already asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency $9.7 million in reimbursements, Magofna said.

Out of that $9.7 million, CUC has already been paid $6.3 million.

Magofna said they are also expecting to receive this month $4.3 million in FEMA reimbursement from Typhoon Soudelor, which hit the CNMI in August 2015.

"We are just waiting on FEMA to give us the payment," she said.

She said they did receive last April 15 FEMA reimbursement for water system mitigation totaling $228,000.

CUC has a budget of $122 million this fiscal year.

At the end of second quarter, CUC spent 44 percent or $53 million out of that budget, Magofna said, leaving a balance of $68 million for the remainder of the fiscal year.

SVES registration info

School year 2019-2020 registration for Kindergarten is scheduled to begin at San Vicente Elementary School on June 3. Registrations will take place in the temporary main office (Rm. L32) near the cafeteria from June 3 to June 7, from 1pm to 3pm only.

Register during the above dates and times to ensure their Kindergarten child is enrolled for the upcoming school year. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 30, 2019, to be enrolled.

New student registration for Grades 1 to 5 will open on June 24, from 9am to 11:30am and from 1:30 to 3:30pm. All new student registration packets must be complete upon registration: copy of birth certificate, original school entrance health certificate (from CHCC or any private clinic, copy of updated medical insurance (Medicaid, government or private insurance, or student accidental insurance from a private insurance policy holder), copies of photo identification of parents and individuals (aside from parents) that will be indicated as emergency contacts on the registration form, copy of power attorney/ legal guardianship (if applicable) , and copy of report card or certificate of completion from the exiting school.

Should you have any questions, contact 664-3981. ***(PR)***

SCHOOL

From Page 1

many students and teachers are still adjusting to regain a sense of normalcy in an unfamiliar learning environment.

Hopwood Middle School principal Rizalina Liwag concedes that "it is still very challenging to adjust to the unfamiliar environment."

She would know. Due to their campus' extensive damage from Super Typhoon Yutu, Hopwood Middle School was forced to move out of its home campus into a temporary campus made up of about 40 "classroom tents."

Hopwood Student Council president Kina Rangamar said that moving around, from their original temporary campus at Marianas High School, to the tents adjacent to the Koblerville Elementary School, has made the process of transitioning difficult.

"There has been a lot of power outages recently and we struggle to focus on our work with the extreme heat," she said.

Another student, Hopwood National Junior Honor Society president MaryGrace Caras, whose house was fully destroyed by the typhoon, has been living in a tent for the past six months. She recently just moved into a new home; however, there is still no power.

Despite these challenges, Caras remain positive. "We're really lucky that we have somewhere to be. In school, we're surrounded by our friends that make us happy. Our teachers and counselors are always helping us have a positive school year."

It's not all doom and gloom, though. Liwag noted that Hopwood is doing better with their plans and goals, compared to the last few months. "It will take time to rebuild, but I have hope. Our students, teachers, and staff are very resilient to the many changes we faced this school year," she added.

Another campus that was badly hit by the typhoon was the Northern Marianas College. A temporary campus made of several tents is located in its south field, yet it is also busy preparing for the construction of new, modern and state-of-the-art facilities to replace the buildings and facilities it lost during the typhoon.

"Despite the devastating impact by Super Typhoon Yutu on NMC facilities, the college is moving forward and continuing to provide high-quality programs and services to meet the educational needs of our community," assured interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico.

At first, it was challenging to take online classes "when there was no power and a lot of my supplies were destroyed," said NMC student Brianna Hunter.

However, she is glad and extremely grateful that her instructors were able to adjust their lesson plans to accommodate students in a short amount of time.

Another NMC student, Kuino Camacho, is similarly upbeat. "I'm really lucky to have a safe place to learn. Even with all the damage, the instructors prioritized the education of the students."

Both students described the college as "an escape from all the struggles and tragedies." NMC provided counselors and mentors to help the students adjust to the new environment. Additionally, NMC and Tan Siu Lin Foundation recently donated school supplies and laptop bags for the students, easing some of their concerns about their lost possessions.

IPI

From Page 1

has been holding us back. … Not having that land for the last two years has affected how we operate. We finally got to a point of saying, 'What's available now?' and it was made public as to who would like to manage this property and here we are and we are doing it as a company," Brown said.

"The Marpi land is the biggest piece…and our goal was not only to come here with the casino in the middle of Garapan but also the Marpi land. …When we are granted the entire site, then we can move on with our partners and go into our phases, as this was our plan years ago and is still is," Brown added.

Brown said that the duration of the management agreement is just one year. "It is going to cost us a couple of hundred thousand a month to maintain this property and we will do that. Hopefully, on the day that we get the land, we can move on with our phases and plans for our company," he said.

As for manpower, Brown said the goal is to hire the people who have worked at the Mariana Resort property for many years "because they know the property and we are trying to get back as many as we can. Like any business on island, we have to cut back and streamline so we pick up this facility thinking that the people who [used to] work there will help us, get the[m] back…because we also need them to run the facility," he added.

VIP villas to partially open by end of September

According to Brown, IPI plans to partially open what it will call the Beach Villa Resort, a seafront development beside the casino complex that IPI is finishing to complete. Both are part of the recently renamed Imperial Palace Saipan.

Brown expects a thousand workers to arrive and work on the Beach Villa Resort. "So, with the thousand workers here, roughly, we will partially open rooms…just to get the rooms going by the end of September of this year," he said.

"Once we have the rooms, our guests can come down in the middle of the night and go to the casino because, right now we have people staying…[at the] Hyatt [Regency Saipan] and Fiesta [Resort & Spa Saipan]. Like what I said in previous meetings, our goal is to finish that first and go to the tower," he added.

IPI vice president for construction Eric Poon said that IPI has hired more than 100 Taiwanese and Thai H-2B workers who are expected to report for duty by the end of this month and beginning of May.

"Our focus is Taiwan and Thailand for workers now… we hired a management staff currently stationed in Thailand conducting interviews and getting on board. …As soon as everything is ready, they will come and meet with us," he said.

"We are getting 100 construction workers per month until we reach the quota of 1,500 and we are ready for them—the job site, transportation, and dormitory are ready," he added.

Aside from the rooms, Poon projects that by the end of September, the main lobby of the resort hotel, reception desk, and deluxe villas will be complete and ready.

MARKET

From Page 1

Usually, the tents are already set up at the Garapan Fishing Base as early as Wednesday afternoon.

Yobei clarified that a Street Market next week will go ahead—if the weather cooperates.

Yobei said that many of the tents were being blown away as they were setting them up yesterday, raising safety concerns.

The weekly Street Market just recently resumed after the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018. Yobei had noted that the over 30 vendors were happy to be back.

"We are almost back to normalcy and the vendors are all happy to be back," he said. "We just want to apologize to the public and the vendors for the cancellation but, because of safety concerns, we decided not to open the Street Market today," Yobei said.

"We have encountered this problem in the past, so it is better be safe," he added.

B&BS

From Page 1

posed on hotels.

In light of last week's fatal gas explosion at an alleged B&B, Aldan-Pierce said these establishments are especially needed when hotels are operating at near capacity or full capacity.

"Destinations globally welcome the addition of B&Bs as they enhance the experience of tourists who would rather stay in the comfort of a home than be in a traditional hotel environment," she said.

However, these B&Bs must comply with all laws, most importantly those that deal with the safety of visitors and the payment of all appropriate taxes, Aldan-Pierce said.

She pointed out that when the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands agreed to an increase in the hotel occupancy tax—from 10 percent to 15 percent—several years ago, a certain percentage was set aside for the Department of Finance to enforce the taxation law.

Enforcement is key, she said, to ensure a level playing field to all providers of transient rooms, and the tourism industry wanted to appropriately fund the agency to ensure that this is done.

Yet "how many enforcement officers have been hired by Finance with the funding it has received from this source since the law was implemented over five years ago? And what progress have they made in this area?" Aldan-Pierce asked.

Negative incidents involving visitors or residents working in the tourism industry adversely affect the image that the MVA goes overseas to sell. The gas explosion at a B&B establishment last week led to the death of Ramoncito Apostol. Separately, a guest drowned at the same establishment in 2017.

Aldan-Pierce said it behooves all those in the tourism industry and enforcement agencies to diligently do what they are mandated to do to prevent accidents.

"Maybe the law needs to be revisited to share some of the funding that goes to Finance to the fire and health departments to ensure compliance with their regulations also," she added.

Apostol, 55, died last Monday after a kitchen explosion at his workplace at Sea Fun Villa in San Vicente last Saturday morning. A Commonwealth Health Center doctor determined that Apostol went into cardiac arrest due to infection caused by extensive burns to his body, coupled with his history of diabetes.

In September 2017, Dan Liu, a popular cosplay model in China, drowned in Sea Fun Villa's swimming pool.

Maryann Borja-Arriola is new OVR director

Maryann Borja-Arriola has been appointed to head the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation as director.

Prior to this, Borja-Arriola served as a grants specialist under the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse, helping secure grant projects such as the $3.2 million award for the CNMI Veterans' Cemetery, as well as several youth initiatives like the San Vicente Park project and the revitalization of the Koblerville Youth Center.

Borja-Arriola

She was also instrumental in the coordination of the CNMI's first Disability Sports Festival.

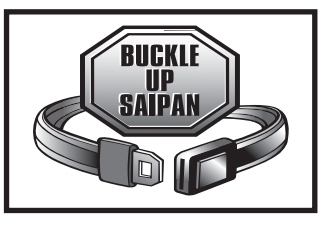
"Maryann has played a vital role…as an advocate for education, the CNMI youth, and individuals with disabilities," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "She has led several large grant projects that benefit… the villages and has extensive experience as a vocational rehabilitation counselor."

Borja-Arriola used to be a vocational rehabilitation counselor, a former planner for the Commonwealth Zoning Board and a teacher at Garapan Elementary School.

She received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Argosy University in Honolulu, Hawaii. ***(PR)***

USCIS completes H-1B cap random selection process for FY 2020

On April 10, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services used a computer-generated random selection process to select enough H-1B petitions to meet the congressionally-mandated regular cap and the U.S. advanced degree exemption for fiscal year 2020. After completing the random selection process for the regular cap, USCIS also determined that it has received a number of petitions projected as sufficient to meet the 20,000 H-1B visa U.S. advanced degree exemption, also known as the master's cap. ***(PR)***



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Laolao Bay Golf & Resort to host Hyatt charity tournament

Hyatt Regency Saipan will host its 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course this Saturday, April 27. That makes the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort a platinum sponsor for another year in a row.

The donation from LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort will aid this year's beneficiaries: the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

Make-A-Wish grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

500 Sails seeks to revive traditional Chamorro and Carolinian *proa* (canoe) construction and sailing;

NMI Rollers Basketball Association promotes the sport of basketball among the CNMI youth.

Isla Montessori School seeks to blur the boundaries between the community and institutional schooling.

4H Marianas promotes agriculture, healthy living, environmental and outdoor learning, STEM, indigenous culture, and creative arts learning within the youth of the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Paul Park, Laolao Bay golf & Resort marketing manager; Ty Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food & Beverage; Min Seok Chang, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort general manager; Tony Satur, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort operations manager; Maria Beltran, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort; Franco Santos, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort local market developer; Roland Fernandez, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort; Ernest Maicle, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

Registration for the 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic opens at 6:30am and shotgun start is at 7:30am. For more information contact 1 (670) 234-1234 Ext. 26.

Laolao Bay Golf & Resort general manager Min Seok Chang said, "We look forward to an excellent turn out and wish all the golf players a wonderful and great game."

He described the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan for the 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic tournament as a "commitment."

"We also believe in supporting the island community of Saipan to help sustain our economy," he said.

Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa said the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort are partners in the tourism and travel industry. "We are very pleased to have the support of [Laolao Bay Golf & Resort] for our 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic. Together we work toward a common goal of caring for our island community."

Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, in partnership with Dae Woo Construction, is a multi-recreation facility with a 36-hole golf course that can be split into two more commonly known courses—east course and west course.

The east course consists of fairways with lush, green scenery.

The west course sits along the coastline of the South Pacific Ocean. ***(PR)***

Over $3,000 donation from Bank of Guam

Hyatt Regency Saipan has received over $3,000 worth of cash and in-kind donation from platinum sponsor and business partner Bank of Guam in support of the upcoming 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic.

The donation from Bank of Guam will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

Bank of Guam VP/CNMI regional manager Marcie M. Tomokane said the bank of Guam decided to participate in this year's charity golf classic to echo Hyatt Regency Saipan's desire to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam/CNMI and local organizations.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Augustin U. Palacios, Bank of Guam AVP/credit officer; Marcie M. Tomokane, Bank of Guam VP/CNMI Regional Manager; Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef; Larry A. Philip, Bank of Guam VP/branch manager; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; and Jerry Escota, Hyatt Regency Saipan front desk manager.

"Hyatt has pledged that portions of the proceeds will go toward the Make-A- Wish Foundation, which Bank of Guam has supported directly over the years because of its focused cause to make each year one special child's wish and dreams come true.

"To us, this year's focused fundraiser is extra special and we support those endeavors. We are pleased to sponsor your fundraising for your continued support to the community," said Tomokane.

Nick Nishikawa, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager, said the foundation of the company's employee charitable organization, Hyatt Thrive, "is built on the understanding that through actions large and small, we have a big impact on the lives of the people in our communities. Our [golf tournament] allows us and our business partners to directly impact our community."

Bank of Guam was founded in 1972 by Jesus Leon Guerrero. ***(PR)***

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For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

Over $2K in-kind donation from Marianas Coffee

Hyatt Regency Saipan has received a donation of coffee for all golfers to enjoy from long-time business partner and platinum sponsor Marianas Coffee Co. for this year's 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic.

The donation will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A- Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

The 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic at Laolao Bay Golf and Resort west course will take place tomorrow, April 27. Registration opens at 6:30am and shotgun start is at 7:30am.

"We are honored by the generosity of the team at Marianas Coffee. Their donation supports our efforts in raising funds for our beneficiaries and demonstrates a unique connection to the community. Chuck Jordan and his family work tirelessly at their passion, to supply the people living and visiting our islands with the freshest cup of coffee possible. At Hyatt Regency Saipan, we are proud to serve Marianas Coffee and proud to continue working with this passionate team," said Hyatt Regency Saipan's Food & Beverage director Ty Pauling in a statement.

Marianas Coffee Co. is owned by Chuck and Ann Jordan. The company's business is wholesale. ***(PR)***

Saipan Brewing signs on as platinum sponsor

Hyatt Regency Saipan has received an in-kind donation of craft beers from Saipan Brewing Co. worth over $3,000, making the company a platinum sponsor at this year's 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic.

Golfers can look forward to their brew at hole No. 1 throughout the tournament as well as during the banquet event that evening.

The donation from Saipan Brewing Co. will aid this year's beneficiaries: the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

Saipan Brewing Co. owner Stephen Sablan saig the company is pleased to be a platinum and continued sponsor in support of this year's charity golf classic.

"We take pride in our investment in our local community and we take our business seriously, because as community members we are just as responsible in caring for its people and environment," he said.

Hyatt Regency Saipan Food & Beverage assistant director Seiji Shindo said: "We truly appreciate the generous support from Saipan Brewing Company for our 23rd Charity Golf Classic. We share the passion to offer quality products with our guests, and the continued partnership in this charity effort is another example of how we both strive to positively impact the local community of the CNMI. On behalf of Hyatt Regency Saipan, we graciously thank you, Team SBC!"

Saipan Brewing Co. was established in 2016 by Stephen Sablan. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Seiji Shindo, assistant director of Food & Beverage; Darrel Salas, Saipan Brewing Co.; Stephen Sablan, Saipan Brewing Co. head brewer and owner; and Ty Pauling,Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food & Beverage.

Western Sales Trading Co. makes $10K hole-in-one prize and in-kind donation

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic has received a $10,000 hole-in-one prize and in-kind donation from platinum sponsor Western Sales Trading Co.

The donation will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

"It's a privilege to be part of this year's [charity golf classic]," said Western Sales Trading Co. sales manager Joey Ejercito. "We thank Hyatt Regency Saipan for their support to the community by helping charitable institution like the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI. We congratulate Hyatt Regency Saipan for the successful event and wish all the golf players best of luck on the links."

In turn, Seiji Shindo, Hyatt Regency Saipan's Food & Beverage assistant director, said: "We would like extend our sincerest appreciation to Western Sales Trading Co. with its continued generous donations and support to our charity golf classic. Event partnership with WSTCO, along with all the players and other event supporters, make it possible to care for the people and community of the CNMI. Hyatt Regency Saipan is truly thankful to have a great partnership with the wonderful people at the Western Sales Trading Co."

The company is the exclusive distributor of R.J. Reynolds tobacco products in the CNMI for the past 25 years and the largest tobacco distributor in the Western Pacific. It also distributes Japan Tobacco International brand throughout Micronesia. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Andy Guervara, Western Sales Trading Co. sales & operation manager; Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of rooms; Belo Lumentegar, Western Sales Trading Co. branch manager; Ty Pauling Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food & Beverage; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; and Joey Ejercito, Western Sales Trading Co. sales manager.

Flame Tree TV & KSPN 2 News donate coverage to Hyatt's charity golf tourney

Hyatt Regency Saipan's 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic has received a donation of over $5,000 worth of media coverage on the day of the tournament and at the awards dinner banquet from Flame Tree TV & KSPN Channel 2.

The donation will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

"Each year KSPN looks forward to the Hyatt Classic Golf Tournament as one of its favorite sporting events and for good reasons. The tournament is…fun while also competitive. The cause is consistently noble. The camaraderie is pleasingly chummy. Add a sumptuous awards banquet with…spectacular raffle prizes and it's easy to understand why KSPN is a proud annual sponsor," said Chris Nelson and KSPN 2 news team.

"On behalf of the hotel, we would like to express our gratitude for your excellent coverage of our annual golf classic. The positive exposure your great team provides the community on our charity golf classic assists us in reaching our community goals. I am always happy to work with the wonderful and professional news team at Flame Tree TV and KSPN Channel 2 News," said Claudine Camacho, Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant marketing communications manager.

The Flame Tree TV and Production Co. broadcasts on Channel 2 and Channel 3 in the Marianas and Channel 42 as a Chinese Channel.

The company also operates a digital signage network, produces documentaries, and television commercials. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Ton Atalig, Saipan Flame Tree TV and KSPN2 director of operations; Ty Pauling Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food & Beverage; Adriana Cortero, Saipan Flame Tree TV & KSPN2 news anchor; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Bob Coldeen, Saipan Flame Tree TV & KSPN2 news managing partner; Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of rooms; Zenn Tomokane, executive sous chef and Ashley McDowell, Saipan Flame Tree TV & KSPN2 news anchor.

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NMI-filmed movie is accepted into LA Film Festival

The cast and crew of *We Drank Our Tears* gather for a group photo at one of their recent film shoots.
PHOTO COURTESY OF D&R VISUALS

The movie *We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas's Story* has been accepted into the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, or the LAAPFF, and that it has just wrapped up shooting three more films in the series.

Mount Carmel School learned about the entry of Rafael Mafnas' Story into the LAAPFF from the festival's senior film festival programmer and operations director, Eseel Borlasa.

» Three more films wrap up shooting for summer premiere

"We are excited by the inclusion of your production, and trust that it will find a warm and captive audience here," said Borlasa in the notification letter.

The film, which also won Best of Festival at the 2018 Guam International Film Festival, was directed by MCS seniors Angelo Manese and Justin Ocampo.

"It's one thing to have our island of Saipan appreciate our film, but it's definitely another thing for our story to be shown to a larger audience," said Manese.

Ocampo agreed. "It's a distinct honor to have Rafael's story be told to others through this platform. I hope that his story inspires others the way his story has inspired us."

MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who was also a producer for the film, said this only proves that CNMI students "have the talent, the skill, and the passion to tell compelling stories about our islands."

Deleon Guerrero also acknowledged that the entry of the film into the LAAPFF speaks to the resilience of the people of the Marianas, especially in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu. "If it's one thing we've learned by telling these stories, it is that, with hope and faith and determination, we can survive any tragedy, whether they be world wars or super typhoons. This honor reinforces that underlying message."

Established in 1983, the LAAPFF is the largest film festival in Southern California dedicated to showcasing films by and about Asians & Pacific Islanders around the world.

MCS also just wrapped up shooting three more films in the *We Drank Our Tears* series, with three new film directors, all veterans of the school's Theatre Club.

AlumKnight and Theatre Club co-adviser Aysia Adele Duenas Santos, directed *Sister Antonieta Cepeda Ada's Story*; William Blake Deleon Guerrero directed *Carmen Cabrera Acosta's Story*; and Quincy Chinen directed *Rosa Reyes Agulto's Story*.

For Santos, telling Sr. Ada's story has personal meaning. "To have personally met her and now to have her story turned into a film is such an honor. Not many people know about our history and I'm very glad I was chosen to tell such a powerful story."

Deleon Guerrero feels equally humbled to tell the story of Carmen Acosta. "I felt honored having the opportunity to tell a story, especially one from my island. It was definitely a new experience, but it was one that allowed me to express myself in ways I only dreamed of." He was also thankful to the cast and crew for their contributions to the film. "I'm glad to have my friends help me accomplish a lifelong dream."

While normally behind the camera or backstage as a manager, telling the story of Rosa Agulto is Chinen's directorial debut. "Directing was a new experience for me." However, Chinen appreciated the opportunity to step up as a director. "It was a privilege to work with such a talented group of people to tell a story that, I believed, will teach future generations what families went through in the war."

The three new films also herald the school's collaboration with a new creative partner in the series, D&R Visuals and its team of Denton Pangelinan, Rita Indalecio, and Carlo Domingo.

An up-and-coming video and photo production studio on Saipan, D&R Visuals will premiere its first narrative film, *Remember Me*, on Memorial Day this year. It tells the story of two friends who were deployed to combat and return to face the reality of post-traumatic stress disorder. ***(PR)***

GROW through what you GO through

How Does Your Child Practice Resiliency?

Family is an important system affecting child resilience. By providing a supportive environment with open communication and effective parenting practices, children are given a huge head start in terms of building resilience (Newman & Blackburn, 2002). Every generation has had its own unique challenges; it also can be argued that the demands, anxieties, and pressures faced by young people today present an exceptional challenge to healthy development. Here are a few helpful ways to promote resiliency with your child:

- **Build Empathy:** Help your child develop empathy by teaching him/her how to really consider and visualize the struggles faced by others.
- **Identify a Go-To Person:** Make sure your child has a close and supportive adult he/she feels comfortable confiding in.
- **Listen:** Ensure that your child feels like you aren't simply hearing, but are truly tuned-in to what he/she has to say.
- **Accept Children for Who They Are:** Avoid pushing your child in a direction he/she doesn't want to go; but instead, celebrate the person he/she is.
- **Identify Strengths:** Find-out what your child is really good at and offer encouragement and support.
- **Do-Overs:** Make sure your child knows that mistakes along the way are okay; present them as learning experiences and areas where he/she can try to do better next time.
- **Develop Responsibility:** Give your child opportunities for developing mastery and responsibility, this will encourage self-esteem and -efficacy.
- **Offer Meaningful Participation:** Offer your child opportunities to engage in activities he/she really cares about.
- **Teach Problem-Solving:** Show your child ways to deal with problems, providing both role modeling and encouragement.

https://positivepsychologyprogram.com/resilience-in-children/#resilience-activities

This ad is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – Children's Mental Health Initiative CHH81040, Award #5U79SM062447-04.

HANMI hotel occupancy at 77 percent in March

Cavanagh

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 76.52-percent average occupancy rate among 11 member-hotels in March 2019.

The figure reflects an 11- percent decrease for HANMI hotels compared to March 2018.

"Currently, Coral Ocean Golf Resort is still closed, and Saipan World Resort has fewer than 100 rooms open, as the rest are under renovation. Although the majority of our HANMI hotel rooms are in operation, optional tours are available, and visitor sites are open, we are still working to overcome the negative residual media attention from last year's typhoon," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "We believe [international] media coverage from this month's celebrity #MyMarianas Paradise Festival will help combat that, and HANMI and our members were very pleased to partner with the Marianas Visitors Authority and Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture to make that mega-event possible.

"In the meantime, we would like to move forward with the public land lease negotiations for Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Hyatt Regency Saipan so there will be no further hiccups in the generation of business gross receipt tax, hotel occupancy tax, and other revenue for the government, not to mention local jobs. We are in this together, and we are ready to move forward," she said.

March's average room rate of $140.39 was less than one dollar off the March 2018 mark.

A total of 55,594 of 71,344 available room nights sold in March 2019, compared to 71,115 of 81,529 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

"On a related, but old, note, the recent fire at a bed-and-breakfast reminds us of the importance of enforcement to monitor these kinds of establishments," Cavanagh said. "These facilities must be subject to the same type of enforcement as all lodging facilities. This means payment of applicable taxes, fire permitting, sanitary requirements, zoning, and others. When we invite guests to our destination, their safety must be a priority. We urge our government to seek out these businesses and enforce the laws of the CNMI."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects.

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. ***(PR)***

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TSL Foundation rallies behind 2019 MMAC

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MARIANAS MARCH AGAINST CANCER STAR SPONSORSHIP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, third from left, Tan Siu Lin Foundation officials, and the Commonwealth Cancer Association officers pose for a photo during the turnover ceremony for a Marianas March Against Cancer donation at the JP Center in Garapan early this month.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to Commonwealth Cancer Association and its programs after agreeing to be a star sponsor of the 2019 Marianas March Against Cancer.

The TSL Foundation, the community outreach arm of TanHoldings Corp., donated $16,000 to CCA for next week's MMAC.

TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, along with foundation officials, handed over the donation to CCA executive director Juan L. Babauta, board president Bo Palacios, and other officers of the non-profit group last April 3.

"The support and commitment of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and TanHoldings and its affiliates to the CCA in the past several years has been phenomenal. It's just amazing that we consistently get help from generous companies like TanHoldings," Babauta said.

"CCA is able to serve its clients because of the companies that support our programs. The more assistance we could get from the community, the more people we could help," he added.

A company or organization that gives more than $10,000 worth of cash or in-kind items to the CCA is considered a star sponsor of the Marianas March Against Cancer.

This year's MMAC will be held on May 3 and 4 at the Commonwealth Ports Authority field.

During the MMAC Week proclamation signing last Tuesday, CCA reported a 23-percent increase in the number of its clients between 2017 and 2018.,

Since 2004, CCA has been proving support to cancer patients, survivors, and their families. The group conducts public education and awareness programs and assists patients in early detection and cancer screenings. CCA also provides financial assistance that patients can use for supplements, diapers, bedpads, prosthetic devices, and wound care supplies.

"We remain committed to our clients because we continue to get help from the business community and other kind groups. Words are not enough to express how grateful we are to all our sponsors. To the TSL Foundation, TanHoldings, and the Tan family, thank you very much," Babauta said.

TanHoldings has been a supporter of CCA for nearly a decade and has hosted events/fundraisers for MMAC. One of them is an annual fun run held in memory of John Pangelinan, a TanHoldings executive who passed away in 2008 due to cancer. Other TanHoldings affiliates also hold fundraisers and team up with schools/organizations with majority of the proceeds from their events donated to CCA.

"TanHoldings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation stand with our community and CCA in the fight against cancer. CCA has been doing a great job in reaching out to cancer patients/survivors and their families to make them feel that they are not alone in this battle," Tan said.

"In supporting MMAC, we are honoring the memories of those who bravely fought against cancer. As for the cancer patients/survivors and their families and support groups, we admire you for having resolute strength and courage to keep going and for standing behind your loved ones despite the challenges you are all going through," he added.

Tan is also rallying the community to get involved in cancer education and awareness programs to know and practice ways to reduce the risk of cancer and other diseases.

"Let us strive for a healthier Marianas," he said. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
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www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of April 26, 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Lands & Natural Resources - Division of Fish & Wildlife	03/08/2019 RPIm-2019-X-0308	Rota West Harbor Small Boat Marina	West Harbor, Rota	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/16/2019
2. Pacific Grovel Development, Ent.	04/10/2019 SPI-2019-X-025	Drydock	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/17/2019
3. Saipan Crewboats Inc.	04/17/2019 SPI-2019-X-027	Drydock	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/25/2019
4. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc.	04/17/2019 SPI-2019-X-028	Trenching	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
5. Commonwealth Ports Authority	04/18/2019 TPIm-2019-X-004	Geotechnical Survey	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
6. Mark Arnold L. Santos Dba Macs Marine	04/18/2019 SPI-2019-X-030	Drydock	Tanapag, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/25/2019
7. Public School System & Northern Marianas National Paddle Sport Federation	04/24/2019 SSLRm-2019-X-031	PSS Outrigger Competition Event	Kilili Beach, Saipan	Shoreline/Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 04/25/2019
8. Pacific Marine Enterprises, Inc.	04/11/2019 SPI-2019-X-026	Drydock	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Withdrawn*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
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E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 19-003

Repair/Rebuild damaged sections of the CREES Agricultural Equipment Facility, Tinian

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of construction services for the Repair/Rebuild damaged sections of the CREES Agricultural Equipment Facility, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Monday, April 15th between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., May 15, 2019, CNMI date and time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. O, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 19-003 packet attention Anita Camacho at email anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2018-31100 (Regular)

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Join the Edible Book Contest at Saipan public library

Join the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Edible Book Contest on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 9am to 2pm to participate. Contest is free and open to all cardholders with cleared library cards (ages 6 and up). Last day to register is April 26 at 6pm.

Interested participants should come up with an edible creation that is related to reading and/or books. Examples include, but are not limited to, book titles, authors, and characters.

Be sure to bring the book you are recreating to display, or ask a JKPL librarian to help you find it in the library. Participants should bring their creations to the library on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 9am to 10am. From 10am to 12pm, the community is invited to vote for their favorite entry! After the winners are announced, the community will be invited to taste-test the creations. All entries must be cleared away by 3pm on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Any entries left after that time will be discarded.

Community planting and cleanup at WSR school

In celebration of Environment Month and Earth Day, volunteers are invited to help plant trees and flowers at the Willim S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa tomorrow, April 27, from 8am to 10:30am. There will also be a cleanup of litter on and around the school campus.

The event is hosted by Precinct 2 Reps. Christina Sablan and John Paul Sablan, in collaboration with WSR Elementary School, Division of Forestry, Northern Mariana Islands Cooperative Research and Educational Extension Services, and Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

For more information, contact the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan at 664-8829 or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965. ***(PR)***

JKPL parking lot closed today, tomorrow

In order to accommodate and prepare for the 2nd Annual Community Mobile Information Literacy Fair, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's parking lot will be closed today, April 26, and tomorrow, April 27.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. ***(PR)***

SCC membership meeting on May 1

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting in May will be held on Wednesday, May 1, at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

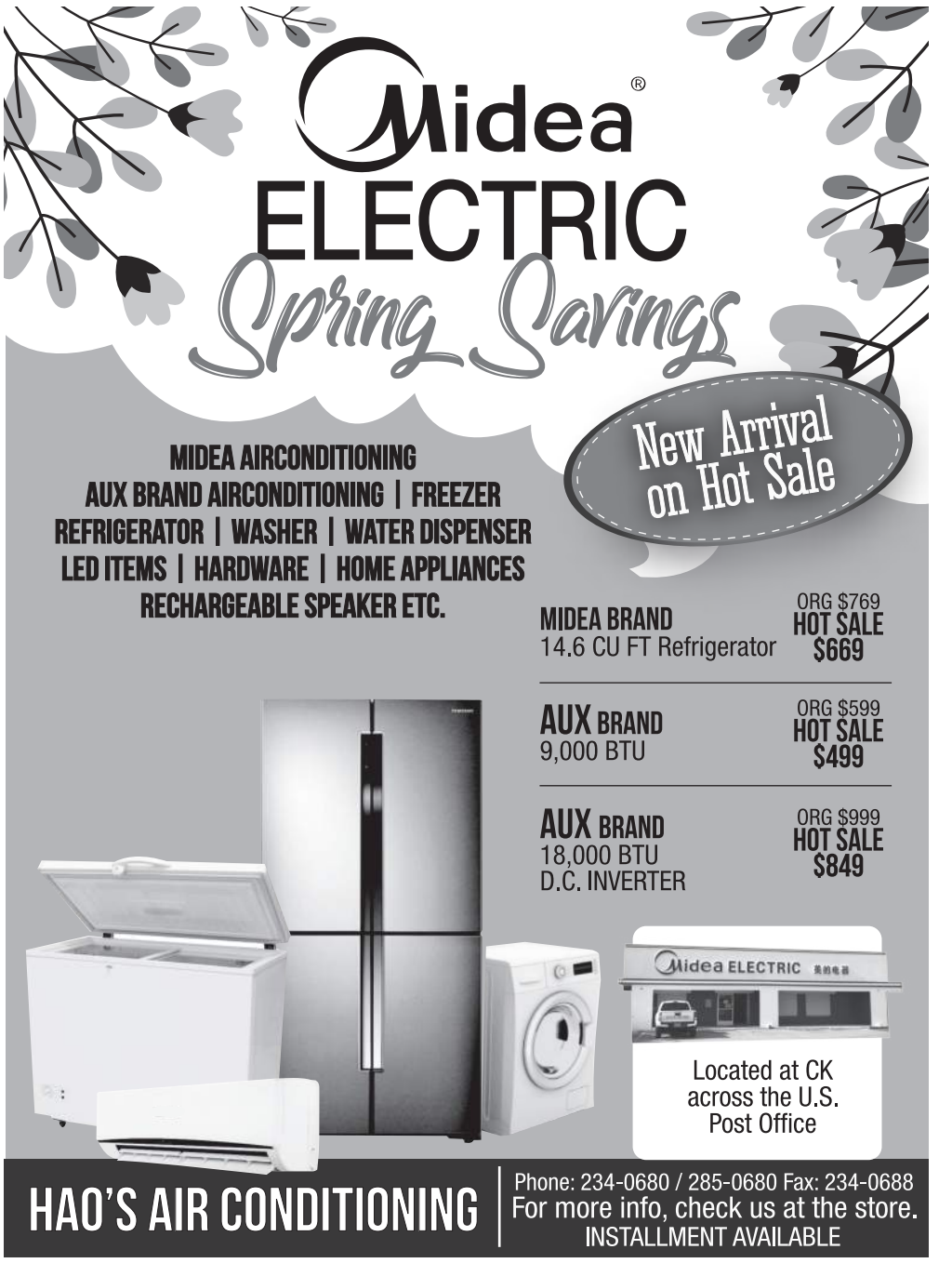
The speakers are acting Finance secretary David Atalig, who will speak about his vision and plans for the CNMI Department of Finance, and Northern Marianas Humanities Council program officer Farah Younis to speak about the council's upcoming initiatives.

The luncheon begins at 11:30pm with the meeting portion starting promptly at noon. Tickets are $25 for Chamber members/$35 for non-members. To RSVP six or more attendees, email Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at administrator@saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 in Susupe for more information. ***(PR)***

Marie Castro talks about her book at JKPL

As part of National Library Month activities, join the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library today, April 26, 2019, from 5pm to 6pm in the Children's Library to hear a book talk by CNMI author Marie Castro.

Castro will be discussing the books *Without a Penny in My Pocket: Bittersweet Memories Before and After WWI* by Marie S.C. Castro and *Marie Castro: My Life and Amelia Earhart's Saipan Legacy* by Mike Campbell and Marie S.C. Castro. ***(PR)***



KFC & TACO BELL SAIPAN
Mother's Day and Father's Day
Raffle 2019
Come eat at KFC & Taco Bell and get a chance to win amazing prizes for every single or accumulated purchase worth $25 or more!
$50
GIFT VOUCHER
PRIZES
1 Winner of GE 18 Cu. Ft. Refrigerator
1 Winner of GE Top Load Washer
2 Winners of KFC & Taco Bell $50 Gift Certificates
Promo Period: April 26 to June 16, 2019
Raffle Drawing will be held on June 16, 2019
at KFC & Taco Bell Restaurant

Red Cross Walkathon draws over 3,000 participants

The 33rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon last April 13 drew over 3,000 walkers on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian and featured fun and games on all three islands.

In addition to event T-shirts, there were special prizes for schools and individual walkers.

This year Oleai Elementary School was again the top school with $16,422 in donations and over 300 walkers.

» CNMI students collect over $88,000 to support Red Cross

The second and third highest donations came from Agape Christian ($10,256) and Mt. Carmel ($5,748) schools.

Students at William S. Reyes raised the fourth largest amount and had the second highest number of walkers at 181.

"We've been so grateful for all the generous support this past year" said J.D. Tenorio, Red Cross Disaster Program manager. "Working with our school children throughout the year, and especially during the Walkathon is always amazing. …They work so hard to help us help our community," said Tenorio.

Special thanks to all the students, parents, coordinators for all their time and energy to support the Red Cross humanitarian work here in the Commonwealth. Special thanks go to the Transpac Group of Companies (Coca-Cola, Foremost, Subway, and Glimpses) as well as all donors who made the walkathon a great success.

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is a non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of the community through volunteer service and financial support. For more information, go to www.redcross.org/nmi or call 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Oleai Elementary School was the top school at the 33rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon last April 13, with $16,422 in donations and over 300 walkers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 33rd Annual American Red Cross Walkathon last April 13 drew over 3,000 walkers on Saipan, Rota and Tinian and featured fun and games on all three islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CHLORINE GAS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Chlorine Gas for Saipan, Tinian & Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-019, Supply & Delivery of Chlorine Gas"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 17, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 1, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TWO SLUDGE DEWATERING EQUIPMENT'S

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the purchase of two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's; one for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-020, Supply and Delivery of Two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than May 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

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Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

U.S. Air Force Capt. Mike Karnes, 14th Fighter Squadron F-16 fighter pilot, parks an F-16 Fighting Falcon at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, last April 22, 2019, during Resilient Typhoon, an exercise designed to strengthen airpower dispersal capabilities within the Indo-Pacific region.
U.S. AIR FORCE/SSG BRITTANY A. CHASE

A U. S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 35th Fighter Wing, Misawa Air Base, Japan lands at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, last April 22, 2019.
U.S. AIR FORCE/SSG BRITTANY A. CHASE

Armed forces scatter across Pacific, then regroup in Guam

By MAJ. PHILLIP VENTURA
PACIFIC AIR FORCES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pacific Air Forces airmen and aircraft from across the command joined together at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam last April 22 to participate in a dispersal exercise throughout Micronesia.

The exercise, named Resilient Typhoon, tests PACAF's ability to execute flight operations from several locations in order to maintain readiness. It involved airmen and aircraft concentrated in one place, Andersen Air Force Base—separating via a dispersal, recovering, and then rapidly resuming operations at airports and airfields in Guam, Tinian, Saipan, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

The exercise is designed to validate PACAF's ability to adapt to rapidly developing events, like inclement weather, while maintaining readiness in support of allied and partner nations throughout the region.

Scheduled training activities included airfield rescue firefighting, post-disaster communications, and the rapid movement of people and cargo which share resources and foster interoperability.

"Operational environments and global threats evolve rapidly," said Brig Gen Michael Winkler, PACAF director of strategy, plans and programs. "We must ensure that all forward-deployed forces are ready for a potential contingency with little notice and that we can move more fluidly across the theater to seize, retain and exploit the initiative in any environment."

While Andersen serves as a premier power projection platform, a number of factors—to include weather—can influence how PACAF maneuvers and postures forces in the region.

Over the past year, the threat and impact of inclement weather has become increasingly relevant in the wake of typhoons that created training stoppages during the most recent iterations of both the Vigilant Shield and Cope North exercises in Guam.

Units and aircraft participating in the Resilient Typhoon exercise included F-16s from Misawa Air Base, Japan's 35th Fighter Wing; F-15C Eagles from Kadena Air Base, Japan's 18th Wing; C-130Js from Yokota Air Base, Japan's 374th Airlift Wing; C-17s and F-22s from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's 15th Wing and 154th Wing (Hawaii Air National Guard); and supplemental capabilities and personnel from the 36th Wing, Andersen AFB, and 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

Military forces routinely operate and train from and in the vicinity of Guam and the CNMI, as well as the FSM and Palau in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

"Pacific Air Forces appreciates the long history of support it has enjoyed in the region and strives to be a good partner with the people across Micronesia in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific," Winkler said. "These exercises serve to enhance our relationships, while also providing invaluable training and operational readiness. Our airmen will be exercising innovative concepts with as light and agile a footprint as possible, while upholding the strictest safety and environmental standards."

Static displays of the aircraft and interactions with the airmen operating and maintaining them were made available to the public.

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American Red Cross
04.13.19
Walk for the Red

Special Thanks to :

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Red Cross Volunteers!!!

360 Revolving Restaurant, 670 Rock Steady, AirStream, The Athlete's Foot, All Star Sporting Goods, Boarderline, Blossoms Floral, City Trust Bank, Carmen Safeway, G4S Security Services, D'Elegance, Ginen Saipan, Caravan Restaurant, Gold's Gym, Surf Club, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Bubba Gump, Golden Harvest, MITA Travel, ETE Cafe, Java Joe's, J's Restaurant, Marianas Business Plaza, DoCoMo Pacific, Lollipops, Luen Fung Enterprises, City Trust Bank, Sky Dive Saipan, Marianas Variety, National Office Supply, Pacifica Insurance, Tasi Tours, Bank of Hawaii, Strategic Gaming Inc., Saipan Shipping Co., Saipan Ice & Water, Triple J Wholesale, Micronesian Air Cargo, Yaong Corporation, R&M Printers

Community Fair Participants

AYUDA NETWORK; CHCC IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM; COMMONWEALTH CANCER ASSOC.; MICRONESIA ISLANDS NATURE ALLIANCE; KARIDAT SOCIAL SERVICES; JKPL / BOOKMOBILE / MOTHEREAD / FATHEREAD; FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY; FAMILY VIOLENCE TASH FORCE; SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION UNIT; KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER; CNMI SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADDICTIONS & REHABILITATION; DYS-CHILD PROTECTION UNIT; CHCC MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH BUREAU; CHCC - CGC SYSTEMS OF CARE; HSEM; MARIANAS HEALTH SERVICES; CNMI AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER; COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY; NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BUREAU; HARDT EYE CLINIC; HEAD START PROGRAM ; FOREMOST; AMERICAN RED CROSS-DISASTER SERVICES

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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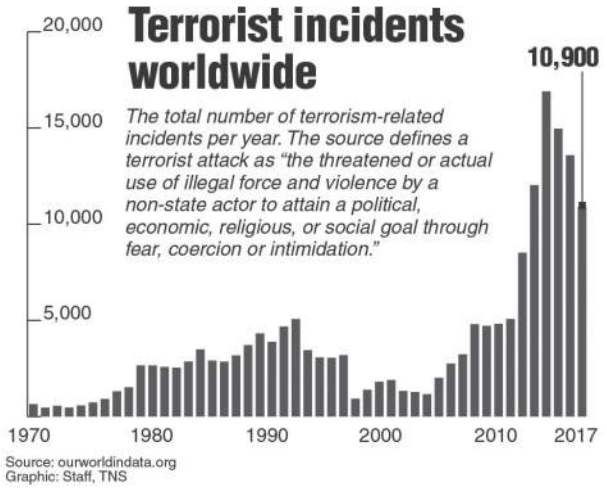
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

HAROLD, EARTH DAY HAS INSPIRED ME TO RECYCLE.
BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT 1988
BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT ★ 2008 ★
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE / WAS LAS VEGAS SUN 2019
MIKE SMITH

EDITORIAL

Deadly silence in Sri Lanka


Terrorist incidents worldwide
The total number of terrorism-related incidents per year. The source defines a terrorist attack as "the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation."
10,900
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010
2017
Source: ourworldindata.org
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Elements of Sri Lanka's government had been warned weeks ago of impending terrorist attacks but failed to share the information. Quite possibly as a consequence, they then failed to prevent the bloody Easter Sunday bombings, or at least to protect the more than 300 people who were killed and the hundreds who were wounded.

Without in any way diminishing the culpability of the suicide bombers or their co-conspirators, blame for the killings also falls on the dysfunctional relationship between President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who haven't cooperated since a government crisis began in October. Sirisena's security council had frozen out Wickremesinghe, so details offered by intelligence officials in India and the U.S. as early as April 4 went unheeded by anyone who could act on them.

The perpetrators are alleged to be the National Thowheed Jamath, a home-grown Islamist group. Its targets were Christian worshipers and Western tourists. But the sophistication of the bombings suggests the involvement of other terrorist groups, and Islamic State reportedly claimed the attack was in retaliation for the March 15 shooting attack on Muslims in New Zealand.

Muslims and Christians are both integral yet relatively small strands of the South Asian island nation's fabric.

Much larger are the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority and the minority Tamils, predominately Hindu. The two fought a 26-year civil war that ended in 2009 with the defeat of the Tamil Tigers. Since then, the nation has struggled to recapture the peace and cooperation that formerly existed among its ethnic and religious groups.

Like many nations, Sri Lanka is a pluralistic society. States of such diverse ethnicities were once held together by armies and ruling families, but pluralism today is most successful when accompanied by liberalism. The rule of law and protection of individual rights lend minorities confidence they will not be repressed by larger groups. Free press and open communication foster debate and combat falsehoods and prejudices.

See DEADLY on Next Page

Safe sex

Author's Note: Originally posted on Jan. 26, 2016, but slightly modified and worth a second look.

By WALTER V. WENDLER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His reflections are available at www.walterwendler.com.

There are five frequently told lies on university campuses, unwittingly believed by too many.

Lie No. 1: There is safe sex.

Safe sex, according to webmd, is no sex at all: The safest occurs between a husband and wife in a drug-free, lifelong monogamous relationship. The concept that a condom provides safety is wrong from a number of perspectives. A materials scientist in any reputable college of engineering will tell you that a film of 0.015 mm thickness provides scant protection. Pores in rubber exist and occasionally provide spaces that very small viruses might pass through, and it only takes one. While 0.015 mm is thin and imperfect, that is only part of the story. The social/economic burdens of fatherless and/or motherless child rearing are widely understood in the sociology department. The psychology department can enumerate the emotional costs of "one night stands" and "hookups" at the bar. The heaviest burdens fall to women, but men carry the results of socially and personally irresponsible behavior, too—sometimes until they die. Safe sex is a lie outside of a marriage, on- or off-campus, for better or worse. Condom distribution tables in student centers don't create safety no matter what a committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics says.

Lie NO. 2: We can conduct business as usual.

Universities are in the midst of dramatic change. Free community colleges will impact all but the elite universities in our nation. If "free" translates into bachelor degrees granted by community colleges, California's recent decision has "Richter Scale" impacts rippling out to every university in the land. Conversely if a "free first two years" works at community colleges, the logical extension to a free first two years at every state university follows—a step of about 0.015 mm. Public education produced phenomenal results in empowering our nation of immigrants and their offspring after the turn of the 20th century and the baby boomers after the century's midpoint. However, from its inception education has never been "free." This progress occurred in a social, political and cultural environment that no longer exists. Universities should mindfully approach changing norms, demographics and evolving expectations of, by and for students.

Lie No. 3: "A" means excellent and "B" means good.

The most commonly given grade at Harvard is an "A." The department of educational psychology or the faculty senate will "crawfish" all over this. ("Crawfish" is a Louisiana idiom that means vacillate, be indecisive and walk backwards like a crawfish.) Of course, there are too many "As." Who wants to be the "bad guy" to the student? Students complete teaching quality surveys that impact tenure and promotion decisions. Student perceptions turn, to the detriment of all, into customer satisfaction surveys. Go to any department of Institutional Research on any university campus and ask to see grade distribution records. With alarming frequency four of five grades given are "A" or "B," with the preponderance being "As". When a student brings home an "A," it may not mean much. In this case, the difference between "State U" and Harvard is about 0.015 mm.

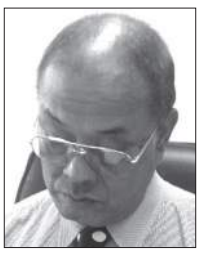
Lie No. 4: Committees make the best decisions.

Other than in a constitutional republic that selects leaders with a committee of the whole through a popular vote—a frequently imperfect exercise but the best available, committees should never decide anything. They should be convened for input and perspective, but they should never make "the" decision. In human relations, the exchange of favors by various interest groups leads to defending and bartering group interests. Too often presidents and ceos look after self-interest: It is the nature of the human organization and the human organism. Moreover, committees eradicate personal responsibility. All lament the imperfection of the process, but argue that the art of compromise produces intelligent decisions. The real result is perfected blamelessness. The difference between a committee decision and the decision of a leader committed to an organization's purpose is frequently more like 15 m, rather than 0.015 mm. The leader must be responsible for the considerable difference of 14,999.985 mm, and real leaders don't blame subordinates or committees.

See SAFE SEX on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wobbly revenue



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Our troubled financial situation is capped by a $30-million shortfall per the governor's recent budgetary submission to the Legislature. It's a tale of revenue generation headed south. It's an issue to be mindful of as we spend what little we have in the coffers.

Be that as it may, revenue fluctuation is a reality in any fiscal year. But $30 million is steep. Has business expansion resurged to hopefully cover this hole? Or is it simply status quo, therefore the hole in perpetuity?

Now the Legislature eyes the easy way out: loans! Who pays for it other than quickly saddling taxpayers with another obligatory indiscretion? Caution! We the taxpayers aren't as "stupid as we look"!

It's economic contraction with far worse implications than meets the eye! It coincides with visitor decline for this month: South Korea 47 percent, China 17 percent and Japan, 59 percent. It means far less revenue up ahead! Is this clear or "not yet, already?"

Thoughtful disposition is contingent upon depth of vision and commitment by our men of wisdom in the disposition of scarce financial resources. Or would they brave peddling deception to boast a new forte in shallow politics?

Growth? Since local financial resources took a serious hit from two disastrous storms, doubled down by exit of Nippon investments, nothing has moved, e.g., non-resurgence of private industry expansion. None!

Doesn't it translate to revenue decreases? It's far less revenue and jobs in the process. It's about the concept of wealth and jobs creation—a bus ride we missed—while waiting at the station.

Benefits: Money from the lease of NMD public land, its use, and the entire nine yards has generated a lot of discussion recently. It's an issue that must be framed and primed for thoughtful review. At issue is the disposition of funds.

There's the view to help the nearly 15,000 locals earning poverty income level in wages and salaries. But this could mean the exclusion of others who are equally owners of the same land. It's easily employed to accommodate a misguided sense of compassion!

It's collective ownership for NMDs, therefore disposition of funds must benefit all landowners! Ponder upon it.

Shift: If you recall the feds took labor and immigration authority from the CNMI in 2007 and 2008, respectively. We were already in a recession fast-tracked into what an economist calls "prolonged depression" when both authorities were removed. We're still stuck in depression as conditions deteriorate beyond our wildest imaginings.

Moreover, the NMI is now prohibited from hiring construction workers from the Republic of the Philippines or CW workers.

The issue imploding without any realistic solution brings forth the question of leadership into the fold. If problems persist, who's being negligent at this juncture?

Obviously, the NMI has been negligent, thus the severance of vital federal laws for its economic survival. Any chance resolving these issues with the feds or "not yet, already?"

Revisiting: We wrestled with "reintegration" with Guam in the late '50s and early '60s, solely founded on the dollar-an-hour minimum wage. It never dawned on us that even with reintegration, it means paying the dollar from taxes we pay into the local treasury. Gee! And we thought it was an automatic freebie!

Eventually we succeeded securing the current arrangement. It turned our focus into strengthening local self-government, working on revenue generation with prudence in their expenditure. There's no room for error in the disposition of scarce fiscal resources. We've succeeded in this respect!

The Covenant Agreement provides for the 902 Talks where issues are refined. Unfortunately, it didn't mean more freebies from across the sea. But it meant buckling down to pushing for private industry expansion to meet mounting obligations.

■■■

Lights: When Yutu uprooted my lemon tree, it also ended the symphony of birds I'd hear at dawn, including the wind whistling through the trees in the yard.

The only thing left is the faithful grass downstairs that sigh for drizzles to soak roasted roots. This in the midst of a lengthy drought season.

In the quiet of the night I could sense the troubling hardship that has descended on villages. It's in the faces of people in grocery stores, church, and elsewhere. The silent expression is a tale of village sentiment loaded with painful familial hardship. It all reverts to the wraths of poverty income at all levels, NMI-wide! The lights are on but is anybody home?

DEADLY

From Page 14

In the absence of liberal institutions, a pluralistic society easily descends into suspicious and bitter factions. Rifts and rivalries can be ethnic or religious, political or personal. And they can be deadly. Each appears to have played a role in this tragedy.

It's disturbing, then, that Sri Lanka's government has responded by clamping down on communication. It is true that social media can amplify and accelerate falsehoods and hatred. Indeed, some factions _ such as the Myanmar military _ have weaponized these networks to distribute misinformation and foment violence.

But shutting them down also prevents families from learning the fate of their loved ones, spreading pleas for calm or combating insularity. As one study of social media blackouts in India has shown, collective violence more often increases than decreases in the absence of those connections. Stanching communication does little to restore the cooperation and confidence that are so essential and were so lacking within the government in Colombo.

(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

SAFE SEX

From Page 14

Lie No. 5: The Whopper—A degree is a meal ticket.

The number of unemployed degree-holding college graduates has increased markedly over the last quarter century. In 1990, slightly over 5% of college graduates were unemployed; now it's over 8.5%. Small differences? Not for the 3.5%. Under-employment in 1994 for recent college graduates was just over 40% and now it is near 50%. A diploma is not a meal ticket or a guarantee, but too often it is a false hope that deceives people into borrowing excessive sums in hope of careers that don't exist or won't pay the loans. In 2017 fifteen percent of cab drivers had college degrees, up from one percent a few decades ago. A college education is powerful to be sure, but this particular lie is damnable precisely because at first glance it's close to the truth about the college experience. The purported and real value is about 0.015 mm apart, but it might as well be a mile.

Of course a college education has great worth, particularly when it satisfies legitimate intellectual curiosity and builds critical skills. To be sure, a college degree will provide excellent possibilities for employment if it educates people for occupations of national or local need or adequately prepares students for graduate or professional study. Without a doubt, a college education is an excellent investment. However, when compared to lost opportunity, costs and hyped hope, a poorly conceived, responsibility-free ride on a borrowed nickel is not a boom, but a bust. Like safe sex.

Lullabies should be no surprise

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Where does our poetry come from? William Shakespeare's birthday last April 23 brought his sonnets to mind. It is said imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. I have written many parodies of Shakespeare's sonnets (about 45) which have appeared on this page.

Other than schoolbooks and literature anthologies, what are some other sources of poetry? My reading tells me few people ever open up a poetry book, let alone buy one after formal schooling is over. We do hear poetry including lyrical, modern, love, and social commentary in current recorded music as I alluded to in a recent *Saipan Tribune* Opinion page commentary during Black History Month. So aside from the world of nature and our own lives as a source for living and breathing poetry in a literal and figurative sense, lullabies should be no surprise.

Since human speech began, lullabies and songs of love have been used, sung, hummed to and for everyone we love. Whether used to "lull" someone to sleep, calm someone down, or celebrate life, mental growth, and the need for sleep and rest, lullabies should be no surprise.

All languages and cultures have gorgeous tranquilizing lullabies in their respective repertoire. National choirs from Poland, Hungary and other Eastern European countries have recorded many traditional lullabies in their respective language. Lullabies from all over the continent of Africa have lulled millions of babies to sleep. A Chinese lullaby sung in Putonghua has a father singing to his sleeping son about how the boy's head reminds him of a head of cabbage. It brings me to tears every time I hear it. A well-known Irish lullaby, the *Connemara Cradle Song or Connemara Lullaby*, is sung throughout the English-speaking world.

My new favorite lullaby is *John of Dreams*. It was originally an Italian love song, then used by Tchaikovsky in his *Pathetique* symphony. Words were written to the melody by Bill Caddick. Find it on *Lullabies for Love: A Celtic Collection to Benefit One Home Many Hopes, Kenya.* I often think of Freddie Aguilar's song Anak as a modern lullaby and Saipan's David Peter (Talumwaar) beautiful song Pution Oracion in the same vein.

Here is a lullaby I wrote on Admiralty Island in Alaska back in the mid-'70s while doing geological exploration. We flew into the mountainside site by helicopter. We were drilling core samples, looking for high-grade nickel and copper sulfides in an ultramafic rock complex. Long daylight hours allowed for two shifts in the summer. When the shift changed and noisy generators and drills were shut off I would often hear but not see little birds sing. I thought about how their life and environment would change if a mine were to be put in there in the mountains. The island lies in the Alexander archipelago within the 14-million-acre South Tongass National Forest. It is quite remote, with only a few very small villages and has more Alaskan grizzly bears than people. There are also many North American bald eagles along its coastline.

Lullaby for A Little Bird on Admiralty Island

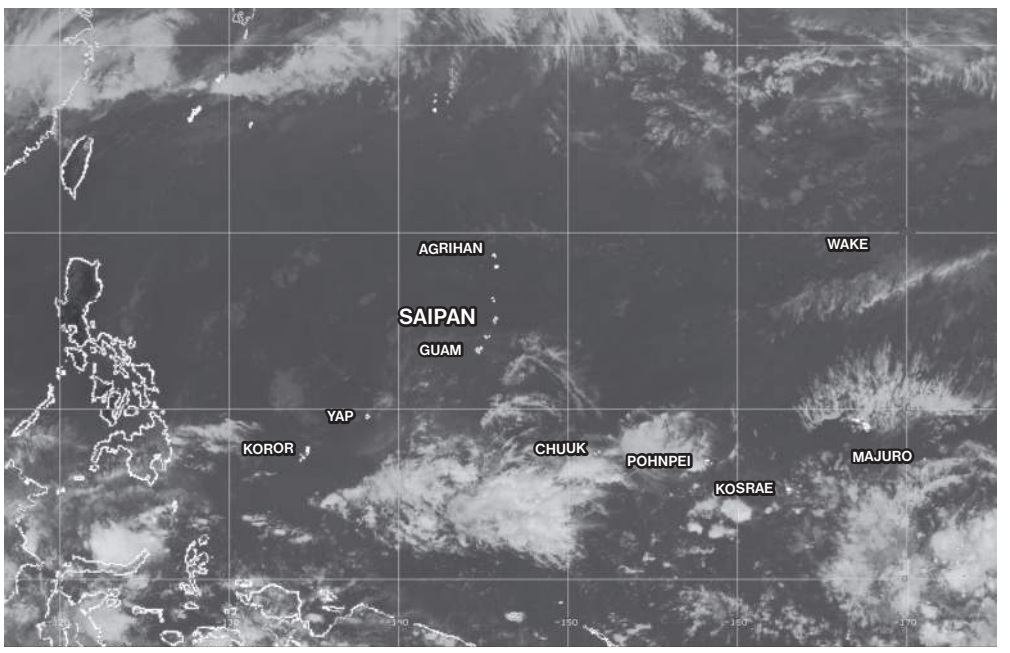
good night little bird you've sung your last word
and tucked your beak underneath your wing
I'll work through the night and by mornings first light
be ready to hear you sing.
we are drilling for ore and pulling up core
right underneath the nest where you live
we might put in a mine in a few years time
and your babies would hear the drilling rigs hum
but we might not find any thing worth a penny
and the forest would be yours till Kingdom come
so good night little bird you've sung your last word
and tucked your beak underneath your wing
I'll work through the night and by morning's first light
be longing to hear you sing.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 76°	89° 76°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:28 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance is making its way through the Marianas, but satellite and radar show that most of the clouds and showers are nearer Guam and Rota, and then farther to the east of Rota out to 150E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 59°
Beijing	Cloudy	64° / 46°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 71°
London	Rain	57° / 46°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	73° / 57°
Manila	Sunny	99° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 52°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
New York	Rain	63° / 50°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	59° / 46°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	61° / 50°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Salem	Showers	79° / 54°
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	66° / 46°
Tokyo	Rain	57° / 45°
Washington, DC	Rain	70° / 52°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
01:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69
7:25 AM	LOW TIDE	1.24
11:22 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.50
6:21 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:29 AM	-
Saturday	12:44 AM	12:20 PM	-
Sunday	1:28 AM	1:09 PM	-
Monday	2:10 AM	1:58 PM	-
Tuesday	2:49 AM	2:46 PM	-

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 27, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily up to May 3

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:30am	3:15pm	Daily up to May 3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

CUC starts replacing 1,157 electric meters in Dandan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has started this week replacing 1,157 electric meters in Dandan with newer units to cut down on losses arising from obsolete meters in the area.

CUC financial account manager Betty Terlaje said Wednesday that the project will be done within 30 days—or by the end of May.

Upon completing the meter installation in Dandan, Terlaje said, CUC will wait for one month to study the impact of the new meters, then Phase II of the project will commence within 30 days to allow CUC's staff to maximize the software potential before expanding.

Right now, the old meters are the old model of the Nighthawk Advanced Metering Infrastructures electric meters.

Terlaje

The newer model of the same electric meters will be installed. This is a federally funded project.

Terlaje held a presentation about the project during a CUC board meeting last Wednesday.

She said that, under the project, they are replacing the obsolete electro-mechanical meter models so that they can improve CUC's metering and billing programs.

"In addition, it will provide quality management for distribution on the power generation side," she said.

Terlaje said that an Advanced Metering Infrastructures is an integrated system of smart meters, communication networks, and data management systems that enable a two-way communication network between the utility and customers.

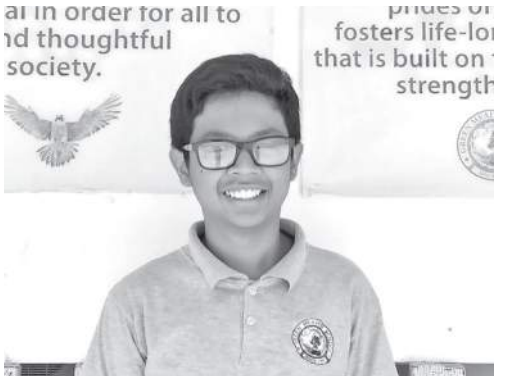
A Nighthawk AMI meter is capable of a two-way communication network using a Web-based metering system that commands radio frequencies through cellular towers.

CUC currently has over 3,000 Nighthawk AMI meters in its inventory.

Terlaje said the Web-based metering system is provided through a Web software portal called Adaptiv that allows for system organization of the meters and analysis of customer activity and meter data.

Among the many benefits are that there will be no more manual reading, reduced vehicle and fuel use resulting in savings, improved billing accuracy and billing credibility, real-time data that benefits the customers and CUC, and remote outage detection capabilities.

As of May 2018, CUC reported that they were able to install 491 AMI meters for residential and government accounts on Saipan.



GMS' HIGH ACHIEVERS

Green Meadow School would like to congratulate and recognize the achievements of Christian Ted A. Pamintuan (8th grade) and Joseph Victor B. Jimenez (7th grade). Pamintuan finished in third place at the 2019 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam last March 2, 2019. Pamintuan will be competing at the national level on May 24-30, 2019 through RSVBee invitational. Jimenez won third place at the National Geographic Bee state finals in Guam. The first and second placers were bagged by students from schools in Guam.

GMS

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-030

Opening Date: Thursday, April 25, 2019
Closing Date: Until Filled

TECHNICAL MANAGER for OIL
(Previously Classified as PETROLEUM & COMPLIANCE MANAGER)

This is an ungraded position as required per Stipulated Order Number 1 (p. 19-21), Civil Case Number 08-0051, United States of America vs. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DUTIES: The incumbent is under the immediate supervision of the Executive Director or under the immediate supervision of a separate reporting structure proposed in the staffing plan required by Paragraph 17 SO. He/she is responsible for Environmental, Health, Safety, and Security compliance at the CUC facilities. The Technical Manager for Oil will have authority to make decisions for management and operations of the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order and will be primarily responsible for assisting the Executive Director in overseeing all environmental assessment and cleanup projects, all oil spill prevention initiatives, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis as required by the Stipulated Order. The TMO shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with staff and contractors regarding Section 311CWA compliance issues and will support the Executive Director in management and operations decisions for the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order. The TMO will be in-charge of training, enforcement and in operational issues having to do with environmental, health, safety, and security compliance.

The Technical Manager for Oil further develops and executes programs to ensure effective identification and management of the Environmental, Health, Safety, and Security risks posed by CUC's Operations and businesses, as well as seeking opportunities to deliver both operational integrity and wider benefits to CUC via sustainability initiatives. The post holder is expected to enhance the management of risk in the CUC business stream and working with the Management team, use appropriate leadership processes and behaviors to mitigate risk. The role will encompass the implementation of EHSS programs including training, raising awareness, managing audits, reporting CUC EHSS compliance, providing technical expertise and support to CUC Management team as required.

The EHSS Officer must also be able to write, upgrade, certify, implement, and train CUC employees in any manual required by the Code of Federal Regulations in the conducting of CUC activities.

LOCATION: Power Generation, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
SALARY: $56,439.00 to $91,349.50 per annum, Exempt (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Two (2) years; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

POSITION REQUIREMENT AT ENTRY:
Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science, industrial hygiene, or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, an one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations. Applicant must have an exceptional knowledge of U.S. Environmental laws and regulations pertaining to oil; knowledge and understanding of the contracting process. Good skills and experience working with regulators such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition the Technical Manager for Oil must demonstrate the following: Proven management and communication skills, demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff in the realm of health, safety, security and environmental awareness, experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during periods of planning, design and construction. Further, the TMO should have experience with the following: oil, oily water, water sampling and testing, International Air Transport Association (IATA) certified to ship petroleum samples, oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statement of work, oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements. Further the TMO shall have the experience in conducting various training seminars, and recordkeeping for training and deferral compliance.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*: Human ResourceS Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org

4. Drop Off

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

POLICIES:
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

CUC IS AN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-012

LALANGHITA ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Lalanghita Road and Drainage Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 12, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 30, 2019,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 8, 2019** to **Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-012"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time May 13, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a,m. local time, May 13, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 13, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 22, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 27, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 13, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission**. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

JACK REYES
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

4 GCA students shine at Math Court

Grace Christian Academy congratulates the winners in the K-3 division of Math Court from the monthly qualifying competition held at Marianas High School last April 6, 2019.

Seorae Lee won second place and Hayul Hsin won third place in first grade.

Hans Ordas won first place in second grade.

Llana Jaira Manalang won first place in 3rd grade.

The Grace Christian Academy proctors were Marilyn Aldan and Maricel Javier, while the GCA Math Court coordinator was Susan Pajarillaga. ***(PR)***

Grace Christian Academy's April K-3 Math Court winners have their picture taken at the school's Raymond S. Kinsella Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 ▪ Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 ▪ Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

RECORDS ASSISTANT

Announcement # JVA19-017
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Sort and arrange documents and files in appropriate file folders; handle reproduction of court documents and related forms; verify and issue criminal record clearances; verify and issue traffic record clearances; ensure file readiness for use in court hearings;
- Indexes records and information;
- May conduct limited research of records for information such as writs, court judgments or verification/location of other related records or information;
- Provides general reception of visitors and telephone clients by assisting them at the counter and, if necessary, routing them through proper personnel or procedures;
- Performs typing assignments as required;
- Inputs various data onto Justware case management database;
- Operates bar coding/file maintenance system;
- Assists with imaging of documents;
- Follows standard operating procedures for organization of case files and document tracking;
- May run errands for the office, including but not limited to, picking up and delivery of mail within and outside the courts; and
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent and should have a minimum of three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818 / 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 ▪ Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 ▪ Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK III

Announcement # JVA19-018
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The Employee in this class performs work with wide latitude for the exercise of independent judgment and action in accordance with established policies, practices and court procedure. The following are required duties:

- Receive, review and record documents filed for hearing;
- Review documents presented by litigants for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court rules and decisions for approval and signature by judges;
- Track cases taken under advisement, ensure updates of same and provide periodic reports to the Clerk of Court and effected judges;
- Set the court calendar and adjust the same to maximize courtroom time and meet unusual situations;
- Prepare bench warrants, subpoenas, summonses and other related documents for issuance;
- Assess fines, receive and account for monies, issues receipts, prepare deposit slips, and make disbursements when ordered or directed;
- Interpret and disseminate information, law, policies, and procedures governing the hearing of cases;
- Maintain the list of court-appointed attorneys and ensure their rotation for indigent criminals, juveniles and 8 CMC §1719 cases;
- Assist with the certification of records in cases appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court;
- Serve as a courtroom clerk for the judges, which includes but is not limited to the following: ensuring courtroom readiness for proceedings, attending court sessions, administering oaths to witnesses, operating electronic recording equipment, listing all relevant portions of proceedings on a log, receiving, marking and assuming responsibility of all introduced evidence, and performing translation during proceedings;
- Assist with the training and supervision of assigned deputy clerks and section staff; the training includes but is not limited to courtroom procedures, custodianship of records, certification of records, administering oaths, administering jury panels, and other clerkship duties for all trial court proceeding,
- Assist with preparation of reports to include compact impact, organizational performance, statistical data, procurement and asset management, and others as required;
- Assist in the intake, retrieval and storage methods of all Drug Court Cases and enforce procedures regarding record and custodianship issues;
- Assist with the day to day operation of the Office of the Clerk of Court;
- Monitor the case flow of all drug court cases by working with all stakeholders;
- Assist with calendaring and docket handling within the division;
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and must have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university in business administration or related field, plus a minimum of four (4) years of experience in legal, law enforcement, court administrative or related work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be $32,000 – 35,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
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Tel. (670)236-9818 / 783-8592
Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@justice.gov.mp

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COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 ▪ Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 ▪ Facsimile: (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) COORDINATOR

Announcement # JVA19-020
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Chief Justice or designee and the direct supervision of the Language Access Policy and Plan Coordinator or his/her designee. The employee in this class performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Assist the LAPP Coordinator in the day-to-day implementation of the Language Access Policy and Planning;
- Assist in drafting policies, procedures, and reports;
- Provide forms to interested interpreters including registration and related forms;
- Conduct background checks, obtain copies of identifications documents, and confirm work status;
- Contact court interpreters upon request;
- Coordinate interpretation and translation services for all cases and service request, as needed;
- Coordinate authorized access to court records, files and other supporting documents necessary to complete timely interpreter or translation services;
- Retain and update records of court interpreter registry program (CIRP) and a list of on-call interpreters;
- Track numbers of interpreters and source language provided by court LAPP;
- Provide quarterly reports on statistics to LAPP Coordinator;
- Prepare and fill out intake sheets for requests for interpreters and translators;
- Assist in submitting, reviewing, and completing of billings and services related to LAPP;
- Track and report on payment status of interpreters and related service providers;
- Provide routine verification of interpreter contact, billings, and source language;
- Assist with orientation and training of court policy on language access and procedures;
- Draft forms for processes, review and implementation of program objectives;
- Assist with internal and external agency coordination of CIRP and related registries;
- Research industry standards for court interpreter services, equipment, and related information;
- Assist with quality assurance audits and recommend changes for service enhancements;
- Maintain and update source language resources;
- Certify and attest to the accuracy of CIRP files and records; and
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate should have a high school diploma or equivalent, and, any equivalent combination of an Associate of Arts/Science degree plus a minimum of three (3) years work experience in clerical, administrative, legal, or related field. Experience in the legal field is preferred and is a priority factor. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel. Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and be operate to operate a court vehicle.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary range will be $23,000 – $25,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
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Tel. (670)236-9818 / 783-8592
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Business

Facebook anticipates an FTC privacy fine of up to $5 billion

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Facebook said it expects a fine of up to $5 billion from the Federal Trade Commission, which is investigating whether the social network violated its users' privacy.

The company set aside $3 billion in its quarterly earnings report Wednesday as a contingency against the possible penalty but noted that the "matter remains unresolved."

The one-time charge slashed Facebook's first-quarter net income considerably, although revenue grew 26% in the period. The FTC has been looking into whether Facebook broke its own 2011 agreement promising to protect user privacy.

Investors shrugged off the charge and sent the company's stock up more than 9% to almost $200 in after-hours trading. EMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson, however, called it a "significant development" and noted that any settlement is likely to go beyond a mere dollar amount.

"(Any) settlement with the FTC may impact the ways advertisers can use the platform in the future," she said.

Facebook has had several high-profile privacy lapses in the past couple of years. The FTC has been looking into Facebook's involvement with the data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica scandal since last March. That company accessed the data of as many as 87 million Facebook users without their consent.

The 2011 FTC agreement bound Facebook to a 20-year privacy commitment; violations could subject Facebook to fines of $41,484 per violation per user per day. The agreement requires that Facebook's users give "affirmative express consent" any time that data they haven't made public is shared with a third party.

The now-defunct Cambridge Analytica, which provided political data services to the 2016 Trump campaign and others, had wide access to normally private user data. It exploited a Facebook loophole that allowed it to see the data of people's friends, and not just people who explicitly permitted access when they took a personality quiz. While Facebook did have controls in place that allowed people to restrict such access, they are found buried in the site's settings and are difficult to find.

In addition to the FTC investigation, Facebook faces several others in the U.S. and Europe, including one from the Irish Data Protection Commission , and others in Belgium and Germany . Ireland is Facebook's lead privacy regulator for Europe. The FTC is also reportedly looking into how it might hold CEO Mark Zuckerberg accountable for the company's privacy lapses.

The social network said its net income was $2.43 billion, or 85 cents per share in the January-March period. That's down 51% from $4.99 billion, or $1.69 per share, a year earlier, largely as a result of the $3 billion charge.

Revenue grew 26% to $15.08 billion from a year earlier. Excluding the charge, Facebook earned $1.89 per share. Analysts polled by FactSet expected earnings of $1.62 per share and revenue of $14.98 billion.

The company cautioned during a conference call with analysts that it faces "ad targeting headwinds" in the second half of this year. That includes developments such as Europe's new privacy regulation that could impair hurt the company's ability to target ads. Facebook also plans to launch a long-promised "clear history" tool that will let users delete their web-browsing tracks from Facebook's data records while also blocking the social network from tracking the links they click going forward.

Zuckerberg, meanwhile, doubled down on his long-term vision to turn Facebook into a "privacy-focused platform " modeled after its encrypted messaging app WhatsApp. Analysts have questioned the company's ability to make money if its focus shifts to private communications. But Zuckerberg said the company doesn't currently use the content of messages for ad targeting anyway.

Boeing's troubled jet is costing $1 billion to fix so far

Boeing is already estimating a $1 billion increase in costs related to its troubled 737 Max and has pulled its forecast of 2019 earnings because of uncertainty surrounding the jetliner, which remains grounded after two crashes that killed 346 people.

The $1 billion figure is a conservative starting point. It covers increased production costs over the next few years but does not include the company's spending to fix software implicated in the crashes, additional pilot training, payments to airlines for grounded jets, or compensation for families of the dead passengers.

The estimate was disclosed Wednesday in a presentation for investors as Boeing released first-quarter financial results, which missed Wall Street expectations.

While lacking many details, the disclosures gave the clearest picture yet of the financial damage that the accidents are causing to the aerospace giant.

Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg repeated that the company is making progress on updating key flight-control software in the Max with the goal of convincing regulators to let the plane fly again.

Chicago-based Boeing Co. said its previously issued full-year guidance didn't account for 737 Max impacts. It plans to issue new guidance at a future date.

The company also said it is suspending stock buybacks. Boeing spent $2.3 billion in the first quarter to buy its own stock, which is designed to make remaining shares more valuable.

Investors and consumers have been scrutinizing Boeing since Max jets crashed in October and March. The accidents have damaged the company's reputation for safety, caused the worldwide grounding of about 370 Max jets, and raised questions about the U.S. government's approval of the plane in 2017.

In January, Boeing projected full-year adjusted earnings of about $20 a share. After the company's announcement that it was cutting production of the Max, however, analysts had dropped their forecast all the way to $16.40 on average, according to FactSet.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO.: CPA-RFP-007-19

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 26, 2019 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

AIRLINE STAIRS MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced companies, corporations, and/or firms to provide the CPA with Airline Stairs maintenance service and repairs. The Executive Director determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a)).

All works shall take place at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning April 5, 2019, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal shall be valid for a period of 60 calendar days from the due date of proposals.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will take place on April 17, 2019, at 10:00 AM at the CPA conference room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building for questions and/or clarifications on this project. Proposals will only be accepted from those proposers who attended this meeting.

Proposers are to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposals to the Office of the Executive Director no later than 4:00 PM, April 26, 2019.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for the Perimeter Security Fence Replacement at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than *Friday, April 26, 2019, 5:00 p.m.*, local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 12, 2019

Nation

Illinois boy found buried in shallow grave; parents charged

AP

This combination April 24, 2019 booking photos provided by the Crystal Lake, Ill., Police Department shows JoAnn Cunningham and her husband, Andrew Freund Sr. On Wednesday, authorities dug up the body of a 5-year-old boy, believed to be Andrew "AJ" Freund, who was reported missing the previous week and charged his parents with murder and other counts.

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill. (AP)—Authorities searching for a missing 5-year-old Illinois boy who had lived in deplorable conditions dug up his body Wednesday and charged his parents with murder, sadly declaring that the youngster would "no longer have to suffer."

The body, believed to be that of Andrew "AJ" Freund, was covered in plastic and buried in a shallow grave in a rural area of Woodstock in McHenry County, Crystal Lake police Chief James Black said.

Black said investigators went to the site after they interviewed the boy's parents overnight and presented them with cellphone evidence. Woodstock is about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Chicago and a few miles from the family's home in Crystal Lake.

"This is not the outcome that we want to talk about ... but it is the unfortunate result," said Jeffrey Sallet, who runs the FBI in northern Illinois.

The parents, Andrew Freund Sr. and JoAnn Cunningham, each face charges of first-degree murder and other crimes. An email seeking comment was sent to Cunningham's lawyer. It wasn't immediately known if Freund has a lawyer.

The couple reported AJ missing last Thursday, telling officers they had last seen him at bedtime the previous night. Freund told a dispatcher that they'd checked "closets, the basement, the garage, everywhere," but investigators quickly knocked down the possibility of a kidnapping.

Speaking to reporters, Black had a message for AJ's relatives: "It is my hope that you may have some solace in knowing that AJ is no longer suffering and his killers have been brought to justice."

Crystal Lake police had visited the house over the years, according to records released by the department. One report described the home as littered with dog feces and urine, including a child's bedroom where the "smell of feces was overwhelming." Another report said the house was "cluttered, dirty and in disrepair," and sometimes without electricity.

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, known as DCFS, had contact with the family since AJ was born with opiates in his body in 2013. The Northwest Herald said he was in foster care for two years before being returned to his parents. A younger brother was removed from the home last week.

Black said the cause of AJ's death remains under investigation. Police removed several items from the home, including a shovel, mattress, paper bags and a plastic storage tub.

"We know you are at peace playing in heaven's playground and are happy you no longer have to suffer," the police chief said in a public message intended for the boy.

DCFS acting director Marc Smith said AJ's death was "heartbreaking."

"The department is committed to conducting a comprehensive review of the entirety of our work with Andrew's family to understand our shortcomings and to be fully transparent with the public on any steps we are taking to address the issues," Smith said in a written statement.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker in March ordered an independent review of DCFS after the deaths of a 2-year-old girl in Decatur and a 2-year-old boy in Chicago. Child welfare workers had contacts with both families.

State Sen. Julie Morrison, a Deerfield Democrat, immediately called for "an independent, comprehensive audit of the DCFS hotline."

"As with many other deaths, it seems the system designed to protect Illinois' children did not work in AJ Freund's case," Morrison said in a statement.

NRA beset by infighting over whether it has strayed too far

The National Rifle Association is used to battling forces that criticize its fiery and unbending efforts to protect gun rights. But as the group gathers for its annual convention this week, the NRA may be facing its toughest foe in decades: its own members.

NRA insiders and longtime observers describe an organization at war with itself over a central question: Has it strayed too far from its original mission of gun safety and outdoor shooting sports and become too political?

It is rare for the NRA to betray any hint of internal turmoil. But it erupted very publicly recently when the NRA sued its longtime public relations firm, Ackerman McQueen, accusing it of refusing to hand over financial records to account for its billings. In 2017 alone, the NRA paid the firm $40 million.

Ackerman McQueen has been by the NRA's side for two decades and has crafted its aggressive messaging, including the "From my cold dead hands" line uttered by actor Charlton Heston in 2000 as he vowed to resist any effort to take away his guns. The line became a rallying cry for gun owners around the country.

Ackerman McQueen also created and operates NRATV, the online channel whose hosts not only aggressively defend the NRA and its cause but often venture into political debates not directly related to firearms, such as immigration or diversity on children's TV. In its lawsuit, the NRA said some of its members have questioned NRATV's weighing in on "topics far afield of the Second Amendment."

The long history between the public relations firm and the NRA has made their potential parting of the ways all the more surprising to longtime watchers of the group.

"The battle in the NRA board that must have occurred with this breakup of a decades-long relationship must have been something," said Adam Winkler, a professor at the University of California Los Angeles School of Law and gun rights expert.

The strife is expected to be a dominant topic of conversation at the convention starting Thursday in Indianapolis, where President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence will address the crowd on Friday. The NRA's two main political action committees spent $30 million to help Trump get elected in 2016, and the organization as a whole spent a record $412 million during the presidential year, according to its tax filings.

It has been a bumpy ride for the NRA over the past year.

The massacre at a high school in Parkland, Florida, last year created a groundswell of opposition to the NRA, driven by student-led protests over gun violence. Corporate America began pushing back, with some major retailers stopping gun sales and banks dropping discounts or certain services for NRA members and gunmakers.

More recently it was disclosed that Russian operatives tried to use contacts in the NRA to influence American elections. Democrats in Congress vowed to launch investigations into the gun lobby.

The NRA does not release detailed membership numbers but has repeatedly said in recent years that it has about 5 million members. The tax-exempt organization's filings with the IRS for 2016 and 2017, the most recent years available, show combined losses of nearly $64 million. And income from membership dues plunged about $35 million in 2017.

The financial turmoil was seen as a key reason the NRA raised its dues last year for the second consecutive year.

Around the same time, the NRA saw its political influence wane during the 2018 elections and got outspent by gun control groups headed by former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. More than a dozen NRA-backed congressional candidates lost in last year's midterms.

ACROSS THE NATION

Boy Scouts: Handful of sex-abuse cases emerged in 2018

NEW YORK (AP)—Under pressure over past allegations of child sex abuse, the Boy Scouts of America defended its current prevention policies on Wednesday and said there were five known victims in 2018 out of roughly 2.2 million youth members. "Scouting programs today are safe," said Erin Eisner, a chief strategy officer for the BSA and the mother of two scouts. "If I felt for a second that scouting was unsafe, I would not be associated with nor advocate for the BSA." Eisner, who joined Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh in a telephone news conference, urged the creation of a national registry in which the BSA and other youth-serving organizations could pool information they had gathered about confirmed or suspected predators in order to lessen the chances that any of them could obtain positions working with children. Eisner said the Boy Scouts were collaborating on that project with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The BSA convened the news conference in response to flurry of news reports about abuse-related challenges facing the 109-year-old organization. Across the U.S., lawyers are recruiting clients to join in sex-abuse lawsuits against Boy Scouts as states have moved to ease statute-of-limitations laws. New York enacted a law earlier this year creating a window for victims of long-ago abuse to file such suits, and several other states are considering such measures.

Woman who fell to her death at the Grand Canyon identified

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities have identified an Arizona woman who died after falling over the edge of the South Rim at Grand Canyon National Park. Park officials say 69-year-old Cynthia Ackley fell about 200 feet (61 meters) Tuesday afternoon. She lived in the Phoenix suburb of Peoria. It was the second over-the-edge death this month within the confines of the national park. Park rangers got a call around 1 p.m. Tuesday about a visitor who needed help west of a popular overlook called Pipe Creek Vista. But authorities say Ackley fell before rescuers could get to the scene. The National Park Service and the Coconino County Medical Examiner are investigating the death. At least six people have died this year within Grand Canyon National Park. The park recorded 17 deaths in 2018.

Police: Motorist said he drove into people, did not say why

SUNNYVALE, Calif. (AP)—A California motorist told investigators Wednesday that he deliberately drove into a crosswalk in a quiet Silicon Valley suburb, hitting seven people and injuring eight, but did not say why. Isaiah Joel Peoples, 34, was being held on eight counts of attempted murder as four of the victims remained hospitalized with major injuries. A 13-year-old Sunnyvale girl was in critical condition. Peoples did not resist arrest after the incident Tuesday night and was talking to investigators, Sunnyvale police Capt. Jim Choi said. "He did not say why he did it," Choi said. "He did indicate that it was an intentional act. He did not express any remorse as far as we can tell." Peoples' mother, Leevell Peoples of Sacramento, said she couldn't imagine any situation in which her mild-mannered son would deliberately crash into innocent people other than something related to the post-traumatic stress disorder she said he experienced after serving as an Army sharpshooter in Iraq.

Asia

Japan's new emperor Naruhito: A cosmopolitan team player

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's soon-to-be-anointed new emperor is a musician and historian, both mild-mannered and quietly tenacious, a team player and a loyal husband and friend who will bring an unusually global perspective to an ancient institution when he ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1.

Because Naruhito, 59, will be more distanced from the World War II shadows that his 85-year-old father, Akihito, labored under, he may also enjoy greater liberty in shaping the contours of his reign.

Japan's constitution gives the emperor only symbolic status, and Naruhito is likely to emulate his father, who has embraced his role as national symbol. Akihito will end his three-decade reign by abdicating on April 30.

Naruhito, the first Japanese emperor to have studied abroad, is considered a new breed of royal, his outlook forged by the tradition-defying choices of his mother, Empress Michiko, and Akihito, who broke with ancient imperial traditions by opening up the cloistered palace to the people.

Akihito and Michiko, who was born a commoner, chose to largely raise their own children instead of relying on palace staff for parenting.

And they supported Naruhito when he chose to attend Oxford, where he researched the history of the Thames River transportation systems during his time there from 1983 to 1985.

"He will be a fantastic emperor," said Keith George, 57, a friend of Naruhito's since their days at Oxford. "He is a caring person. He is a humble person. But he has never forgotten his duties as the crown prince, and he will never forget them as the emperor."

The two young men hit it off from the start, and George remembers Naruhito both for his sense of humor and their shared love of music: George played bluegrass and country music on the banjo, and Naruhito played the viola.

The crown prince's attentiveness and ability to play down his royal status made a strong impression. "He doesn't look at everything in terms of what it means for him. He looks at it in terms of what it means for the people around him," George, now a lawyer, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press at his office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Naruhito's memoir about his experience in Britain includes humorous accounts of his life away from home, including a mishap with an overflowing laundry machine.

Naruhito will be the 126th emperor, but his role will be strikingly different from that of his grandfather Hirohito. Only with Japan's 1945 surrender in World War II did the Showa Emperor, which is what Hirohito is now called, cease being treated as a living god. Under Japan's U.S.-inspired pacifist constitution, the emperor has no political power.

In an annual news conference marking his Feb. 23 birthday, Naruhito said he was open to taking up a new role that "suits the times." But he said his father's work will be his guidepost.

"I hope to see him develop his own way of doing things in coming years," Toshio Shiraishi, a longtime friend of Naruhito, told the AP. "The crown prince has closely watched the work of the Showa Emperor and the current emperor and learned from them, while trying to figure out what his role could be."

Shiraishi, a gray-haired banker who plays the cello, says the crown prince's choice of instrument—viola—shows a lot about the kind of man he is.

AP

In this image, a photo captured in the April 5, 2019, video, Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito, second from right, Emperor Akihito, center, and Empress Michiko, right, pose with Naruhito's friend Keith George, second from left, and then West Virginia Gov. Gaston Caperton, left, at Tokyo' Imperial Palace in 1990.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH police summon owner of quake collapsed store

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine national police chief says investigators have summoned the owner of a four-story supermarket that collapsed in a powerful earthquake and trapped dozens of people. Police Director General Oscar Albayalde says Chuzon Supermarket owner Samuel Chu on Tuesday appeared at a police station in Porac town in Pampanga province, north of Manila, at the start of an investigation on suspicion construction may have breached building regulations. At least five bodies and nine survivors have been pulled out from the rubble. Porac Councilor Maynard Lapid says there are no more reports of missing people and rescuers with sniffer dogs were no longer detecting signs of life in the supermarket's rubble. Monday's quake left at least 17 people dead, mostly in Pampanga and nearby Zambales provinces.

Man pleads guilty to shipping lizards from Philippines to US

BOSTON (AP)—A New Hampshire man who smuggled rare lizards from the Philippines to the U.S. by hiding them in socks and placing them inside electronic equipment has pleaded guilty. Federal prosecutors say 26-year-old Derrick Semedo pleaded guilty in Boston on Tuesday to trafficking in protected wildlife in violation of U.S. and Philippines law and international wildlife treaties. Authorities say from March to December 2016, the Nashua, New Hampshire, man imported 20 live water monitor lizards by placing them in socks, sealing the socks with tape, then concealing them in the back panels of audio speakers or other electronic equipment. The equipment was shipped via commercial carriers to Semedo. Some lizards were then sold to customers in other states. He faces up to five years in prison at sentencing scheduled for Aug. 13.

Japan apologizes to forcibly sterilized people, vows redress

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's government apologized Wednesday to tens of thousands of people who were forcibly sterilized under a now-defunct Eugenics Protection Law which was designed to "prevent the birth of poor-quality descendants," and promised to pay them compensation. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga offered "sincere remorse and a heartfelt apology" to the victims. It came after the parliament earlier Wednesday enacted legislation to provide redress, including 3.2 million yen ($28,600) in compensation for each victim. An estimated 25,000 people were sterilized without consent under the 1948 Eugenics Protection Law, which remained in place until 1996. The law allowed doctors to sterilize people with disabilities. It was quietly renamed the Maternity Protection Law in 1996, when the discriminatory condition was removed. The redress legislation acknowledges that many people were forced to have operations to remove their reproductive organs or were given radiation treatment to be sterilized, causing them tremendous mental and physical pain.

Ambassador: US had no prior knowledge of Sri Lanka threat

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The U.S. had no prior knowledge of the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka that killed over 350 people, the American ambassador said Wednesday, despite local claims that foreign officials had been warned an attack was looming.

As the investigation into Sunday's Islamic State-claimed attack continues, FBI agents and U.S. military personnel are in Sri Lanka assisting the probe, Ambassador Alaina Teplitz said.

While declining to say whether U.S. officials had intelligence on the local extremists and their leader who allegedly carried out the assault, Teplitz said America remained concerned over militants at large.

She also said that "clearly there was some failure in the system" that caused Sri Lankan officials to fail to share the warnings they received prior to the attack.

"I can tell you definitively we were not warned and we did not have any prior knowledge of this," Teplitz told foreign journalists from her office at the U.S. Embassy in Colombo. "We did not know because believe me, if we had, we would have tried to do something about it."

Sunday's bombings ripped through Christian worshippers at church celebrating Easter and at hotels in Sri Lanka, an island nation off the southern tip of India. The attacks killed at least 359 people and wounded some 500 others, marking Sri Lanka's worst violence since its 26-year civil war ended a decade ago.

Authorities have blamed a local Islamic extremist group called National Towheed Jamaat, whose leader, alternately known as Mohammed Zahran or Zahran Hashmi, became known to Muslim leaders three years ago for his incendiary speeches online.

On Tuesday, the Islamic State group asserted responsibility for the attack, sharing images of the leader and other men with their face covered before an IS flag to bolster its claim. The extremist group, which has lost all the territory it once held in Iraq and Syria, has made unfounded claims previously.

Asked about whether American officials received warnings or knew about the group and its leader before the bombings, Teplitz declined to comment, saying she would not discuss intelligence matters.

"If you look at the scale of the attacks, the level of coordination, again, the sophistication of them, it's not implausible to think there are foreign linkages," she said. She added that the U.S. believes "the terrorist plotting is ongoing" and said that's why America continued to warn its citizens in Sri Lanka to be careful.

Prior to the bombings, Sri Lankan officials received intelligence reports and warnings that such an attack could be looming. However, that information failed to stop the assault.

Teplitz said the current political situation in Sri Lanka could have exacerbated that. President Maithripala Sirisena ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in October and dissolved the Cabinet, but Sri Lanka's Supreme Court later reversed his actions.

"Certainly the fractious and fragmented political environment has not been good on a number of fronts," Teplitz said.

World

Kim, Putin have high hopes for their 1st one-on-one meeting

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia (AP)—North Korea's Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin have high hopes for their first one-on-one meeting Thursday in far-eastern Russia, which comes amid deadlocked global diplomacy over the North Korean leader's nuclear program.

Kim is looking for a win after his failed second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, and Putin for a chance to raise Moscow's clout in the region and gain more leverage with Washington.

Kim arrived Wednesday aboard an armored train and told Russia's state-owned Rossiya-24 he was hoping for a "successful and useful" visit and would like to discuss with Putin the "settlement of the situation in the Korean Peninsula" as well as bilateral ties with Russia.

It was Kim's first visit to Russia as North Korean leader; his late father, Kim Jong Il, visited Russia in 2011. The North Korean leader evoked his father's "great love for Russia" and said that he intends to strengthen ties between the two countries.

"I have heard a lot about your country and have long dreamt of visiting it," Kim was quoted as saying at his first stop, Russia's Khasan train station, near the border with North Korea. "It's been seven years since I took the helm, and I've only just managed to visit."

He then traveled on to the Russian Pacific port city of Vladivostok, the site of the summit, where he was greeted by a military orchestra as he stepped out of his khaki-green armored train. Dressed in a black coat and clutching a black fedora, he then got into his personal limousine, which travels with him, and drove away.

AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un pose for photographers during their meeting in Vladivostok, Russia, Thursday, April 25, 2019.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, told Russian media the Putin-Kim summit would focus on North Korea's nuclear program, noting that Russia will seek to "consolidate the positive trends" stemming from Trump's meetings with Kim.

In February, Kim's second summit with Trump in Hanoi ended without any agreement because of disputes over U.S.-led sanctions. There have since been no publicly known high-level contacts between the U.S. and North Korea, although both sides say they are still open to a third summit.

Kim wants the U.S. to ease the sanctions to reciprocate for some partial disarmament steps he took last year. But the U.S. maintains the sanctions will stay in place until North Korea makes more significant denuclearization moves.

Some experts say Kim could try to bolster his country's ties with Russia and China. Others say it's not clear how big of a role Russia can play in efforts to restart the nuclear negotiations. Still, the summit could allow Putin to try to increase his influence in regional politics and the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program.

"Kim wants to show that he's cooperating with Russia too, rather than looking to only the U.S. and China. But I think it's not easy for Russia and China to provide North Korea with practical assistance that leads to the inflow of dollars," said Chon Hyun-joon, a former senior researcher at the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul.

North Korea has increasingly expressed frustration at the deadlocked negotiations. Last week, North Korea tested a new weapon and demanded that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo be removed from the nuclear talks.

Ushakov said the Kremlin would try to help "create preconditions and a favorable atmosphere for reaching solid agreements on the problem of the Korean Peninsula."

IS legacy of guilt weighs heavily on Iraqi widows, children

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—When Ahmed Khalil ran out of work as a van driver in the Iraqi city of Mosul three years ago, he signed up with the Islamic State group's police force, believing the salary would help keep his struggling family afloat.

But what he wound up providing was a legacy that would outlast his job, and his life.

In Mosul and elsewhere across Iraq, thousands of families—including Khalil's widow and children—face crushing discrimination because their male relatives were seen as affiliated with or supporting IS when the extremists held large swaths of the country.

The wives, widows and children have been disowned by their relatives and abandoned by the state. Registrars refuse to register births to women with suspected IS husbands, and schools will not enroll their children. Mothers are turned away from welfare, and mukhtars—community mayors—won't let the families move into their neighborhoods.

The Islamic State group's "caliphate" that once spanned a third of both Iraq and Syria is now gone but as Iraq struggles to rebuilt after the militants' final defeat and loss of their last sliver of territory in Syria earlier this year, the atrocities and the devastation they wreaked has left deep scars.

"They say my father was Daesh," said Safa Ahmed, Khalil's 11-year old daughter, referring to IS by its Arabic name. "It hurts me."

Iraq has done little to probe the actions of the tens of thousands of men such as Khalil who, willingly or by force joined, worked and possibly fought for IS during its 2013-2017 rule. Instead, bureaucrats and communities punish families for the deeds of their relatives in a time of war.

Khalil was killed in an airstrike in Mosul, in February 2017, during the U.S.-backed campaign to retake the city that IS seized in 2014. It was liberated in July 2017, at a tremendous cost—around 10,000 residents were believed to have been killed in the assault, and its historic districts now lie in ruins.

His widow, Um Yusuf, and their seven children were left to bear the stigma of his IS affiliation. She cannot get social assistance, and her teenage son Omar is being turned away from jobs.

They live in an abandoned schoolhouse, living on what they can make selling bread on the streets of the devastated city. Just three of the children are in school—the oldest two dropped out because of bullying about their father, and the youngest two cannot enroll because the civil registrar's office won't issue their IDs.

"It's true their father made a mistake," Um Yusuf said. "But why are these children being punished for his sin?"

Under Iraq's patrimonial family laws, a child needs a named father to receive a birth certificate and an identity card, to enroll in school and to claim citizenship, welfare benefits and an inheritance.

But in post-IS Iraq, virtually every bureaucratic procedure now includes a security check on a woman's male relatives, further frustrating mothers and children.

A U.N. report this year estimates there are 45,000 undocumented children in Iraq. Judges and human rights groups say an urgent resolution is needed or the country risks rearing a generation of children without papers or schooling.

"By punishing entire families, you marginalize them and you seriously undermine reconciliation efforts in Iraq," said Tom Peyre-Costa, a spokesman for the Norwegian Refugee Council, which provides legal aid to Mosul mothers struggling to get their children ID papers.

Emirati woman wakes up from stupor after 27 years

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A woman from the United Arab Emirates whose apparent awakening from a 27-year-long stupor has grabbed international headlines is a rare but not unique case, one of the German doctors who treated her says.

The story of Munira Abdulla was first published by Abu Dhabi's The National newspaper on Monday. The newspaper reported that in 1991, Abdulla was with her son when a school bus collided with their car. Her son, cradled by his mother before the crash, escaped with a bruise to the head.

Abdulla was 32 at the time. That same son, himself now 32, was quoted saying his mother regained consciousness in a German hospital last year. A photo shows her in a wheelchair visiting the Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, where she now resides.

Friedemann Mueller, the principal consultant at the Schoen Clinic in Bad Aibling, told German news site Spiegel Online that his patient had until recently been in a state of "minimal consciousness," during which she was able to open her eyes and briefly focus on something, such as her son's face.

Mueller, a neurological specialist, told Spiegel Online that Abdulla's vegetative state shouldn't be confused with a coma.

"No patient simply wakes up from a coma after 27 years," he was quoted as saying.

"The physical and mental state of the patient increased enormously over a period of a few weeks," he added. "She can now interact consciously with her environment and participate in family life again."

During her years in hospitals, Abdulla was tube-fed and underwent physiotherapy to prevent her muscles deteriorating. After she was transferred to Germany, Mueller said doctors took a holistic approach to her treatment: controlling her muscle contractions, changing the medication she received for epilepsy and using physiotherapy to allow her to leave her room in a wheelchair, so she could get more stimuli, such as bird song.

Mueller said the changes weren't sudden, but gradual. After a while she was able to open her mouth when asked to, then say her son's name, greet doctors and recite some verses from the Quran.

"The case is very unusual, but not unique," Spiegel Online quoted Mueller as saying. He cited a patient in West Virginia who began speaking again after 20 years.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

5-year-old Michigan boy calls 911 to ask for McDonalds

WYOMING, Mich. (AP)—A 5-year-old Michigan boy had a craving for McDonald's but his grandmother was sleeping so he called 911 and made a request. WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids reports Iziah Hall of Wyoming asked the dispatcher: "Can you bring me McDonald's?" Dispatcher Sara Kuberski says she told him no but reached out to the police. Wyoming police officer Dan Patterson says the April 14 request made him laugh, so he stopped at McDonald's on his way to check on Iziah's home in the western Michigan city. Patterson says he thought, "I'm driving past McDonald's on my way there and I might as well get him something." The officer says the first thing the boy said to him was, "My grandma's gonna be so mad, can you please go away?"

Road crew misspells 'school' in school crossing

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—A road crew in Florida should get an "F" for spelling. A motorist on Thursday spotted the error, realizing that workers in Doral had made a mistake when painting the word "school" at a pedestrian crossing in the road. Instead of S-C-H-O-O-L, it was spelled S-C-O-H-O-L. WPLG brought it to the city's attention, and the city tweeted that the private contractor has now corrected its work.

Police: Man returns home, finds naked stranger on couch

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Police say a Tennessee man returned home to find a naked stranger sitting on his couch drinking juice. WKRN-TV cites a Nashville police report that says the resident summoned officers Wednesday and told them he called out to the stranger, who responded by screaming and dropping the juice. When officers asked the man to exit the home, they say he did so but was wearing only a T-shirt. The resident reported the man had consumed ice cream from the home in addition to the juice. Police took 67-year-old James Wooten into custody on charges including aggravated burglary.

Sheriff's officer corrals donkey on interstate near Chicago

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. (AP)—It wasn't a routine day for a sheriff's officer after she spotted a donkey meandering along Interstate 90 near Chicago. Video from a body camera taken Wednesday shows the bewildered Cook County officer radioing: "There's a donkey in the middle of I-90." The officer then ordered the donkey to "come here, sweetie." She asked a motorist to stand with the donkey while she could figure out what to do. The officer also asked the donkey where it was from. It turns out the animal's name was Dusty, who was eventually returned to its owner.

Snakes in office force Liberia's president to work from home

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)—A spokesman says Liberia's president is working from home after two snakes were found in the building that contains his office. Deputy press secretary Smith Toby tells The Associated Press that former international soccer star and President George Weah was told to stay away until the Foreign Affairs building can be fumigated. He is expected back in the office on Monday. The black snakes were seen this week briefly emerging from a hole in a wall of the building's reception area.

'Snot otter' named Pennsylvania's official amphibian

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Pennsylvania's new official amphibian is a slimy, 2-foot-long (0.6-meter) salamander that needs clean streams to thrive. Gov. Tom Wolf signed legislation Tuesday granting the honor to the Eastern hellbender, a nocturnal animal whose colorful nicknames include snot otter, lasagna lizard and mud devil. Members of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's student leadership council have spent three years campaigning to get it designated as the state's official amphibian, helped by Lycoming College's Clean Water Institute. It's the largest salamander in North America. Wolf says the most recent official designation of that type in the state occurred in 1974, when the firefly was named Pennsylvania's official insect.

Paddleboarder guilty of assaulting surfer in wave dispute

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A paddleboarder has been convicted of assault for hitting a surfer with his paddle during an argument over a wave off the Southern California coast. KNSD-TV says Paul Konen was convicted Thursday in San Diego and could now face up to seven years in prison. Prosecutors say Konen attacked surfer Kevin Eslinger last June at Sunset Cliffs in San Diego during an argument over a wave. Authorities say Eslinger was struck so hard that he suffered brain damage and still has speech problems. The defense said Konen acted in self-defense.

'Miracle on Ice' scoreboard will be displayed in Colorado

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—A scoreboard that marked the U.S. men's ice hockey team's victory against the Soviet Union at the 1980 Winter Olympics has found a new home in Colorado Springs. The Gazette reported Wednesday that the panel that kept score of the game that became known as the "Miracle on Ice" will be permanently displayed in the U.S. Olympic Museum and Hall of Fame, which is expected to open next year. The scoreboard was decommissioned in 2017 after nearly four decades of service at the Herb Brooks Arena in Lake Placid, New York. The museum's interim chief operating officer, Peter Maiurro, says the 850-pound (385-kilogram) panel will be mounted and powered in the museum's special events space.

Firefighter recruitment ad touts 'Low Pay, Cool Helmet'

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (AP)—A Missouri county trying to recruit new firefighters is getting real with its sales pitch, saying in signs posted outside its stations that the job offers "Hard Labor, Odd Hours, Low Pay (and) Cool Helmet." KFVS-TV reports that the Scott County Rural Fire Protection District's chief, Jeremy Perrien, says most advertisements are "kind of boring." He says that's why they "wanted to add some humor to it" and "try to catch people's attention." The fire district posted a picture of the help wanted message on its Facebook page this week. Perrien says they're short about 15 firefighters, and rarely have a full staff. The recruitment ad comes amid a shortage of volunteer firefighters in the Heartland.

Deputies look for naked burglar who stole from Little League

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP)—Authorities in Florida are asking for the public's help in tracking down a man who they say burglarized a Little League concession stand wearing nothing more than a ballcap and gloves. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office says the naked burglar struck the stand at Fischer Field in Dunedin almost two weeks ago. Deputies say the burglar stole cameras and a cash box with $250 inside, and he caused $5,000 in damage. Surveillance video obtained by the Tampa Bay Times also shows the man taking a package of hot dogs. The ball field is shared with Dunedin High School.

Science & Technology

TECH Q&A Telling your PC where you really are

Q: I recently moved from Chicago to Lakeland, Fla., but my PC doesn't always realize it.

Whenever I use Google Maps via the Windows 10 Edge browser, the map shows me a Chicago starting point. And if I do a Google search on "Where am I right now?" the answer is Chicago. This is happening even though I went into the Google Maps settings and changed my home and work locations to Lakeland. But, if I use the Google Chrome browser instead of Edge, I get a Florida map for my home location. What's wrong?

A: Microsoft's Edge browser and Google's Chrome browser both keep track of your home location, but they get their location data from different places.

Chrome takes its cues from Google Maps. Because you changed your Google Maps home and work locations (other readers can learn how to do it at tinyurl.com/y63gsfb2), Chrome shows you a Florida map centered on Lakeland.

But Edge gets its location data from Windows 10, which maintains a master location setting for many apps. When you view Google Maps in the Edge browser, Edge disregards where Google thinks you are and instead uses your Windows 10 location, which is still set to Chicago.

To make Edge recognize that you are now living in Florida, change your default location in the Windows 10 "Maps" settings (see tinyurl.com/yycd95lk). Doing so will tell Microsoft's Maps and Weather apps, its Cortana digital assistant and the Edge browser that you have moved.

Q: I need to upgrade from Windows 7, but my budget is limited. Can my nine-year-old Dell Inspiron 560 handle Windows 10?

A: No, your PC is too old to be updated to Windows 10. That leaves you with two choices:

■ Buy a new Windows 10 PC. A Dell Inspiron laptop costs about $280. An Inspiron desktop costs about $400 (and doesn't come with a computer screen, so you would need to keep the one you have.)

■ Buy a refurbished (used) PC. A refurbished HP or Dell desktop with Windows 10 costs $110 to $120 (see tinyurl.com/y4x8dxj5). Refurbished PCs also don't come with a computer screen.

Q: I'm having compatibility problems while using Windows Live Mail on Windows 10, and I can't find any up-to-date information on solving the problem. What should I do?

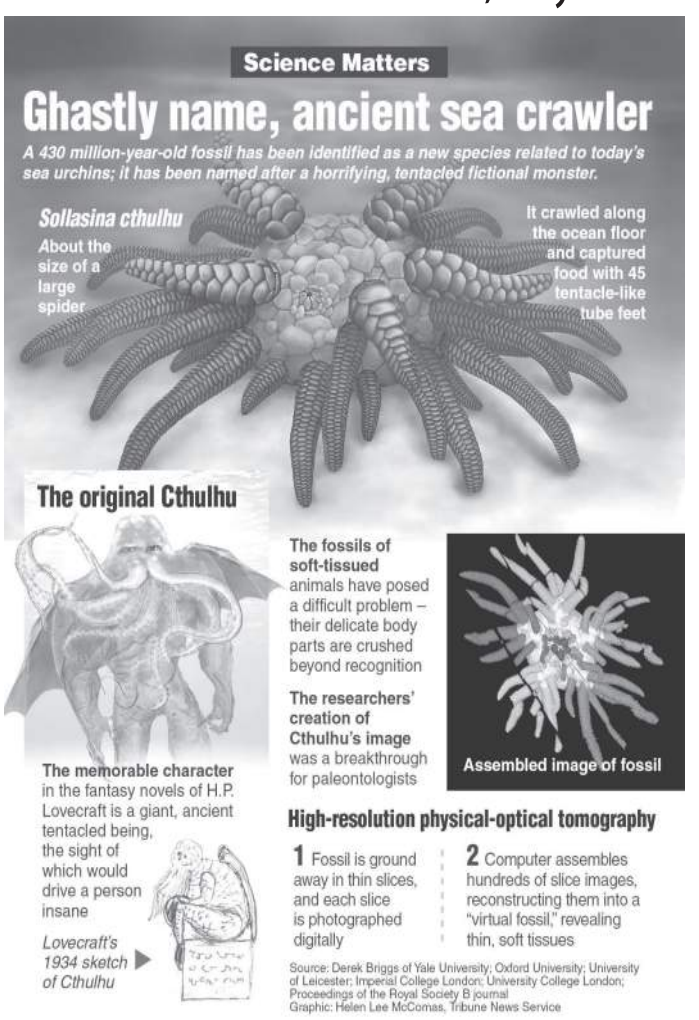
A: Windows Live Mail has been discontinued, so there are no technical fixes for it. You can either switch to another client e-mail program (one that resides on your PC) or use webmail, in which you access e-mail via your provider's website. In either case, your existing e-mails should be easily accessible.

Other e-mail clients include the "Windows 10 Mail" program you already have (see tinyurl.com/zgmk2oh), the free Mailbird Lite (see tinyurl.com/y2l549lj) and the free Mozilla Thunderbird (see tinyurl.com/y9qyvrkl). To use webmail for your iCloud mail account, go to icloud.com.

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

UN: No screen time for babies; only 1 hour for kids under 5


Science Matters
Ghastly name, ancient sea crawler
A 430 million-year-old fossil has been identified as a new species related to today's sea urchins; it has been named after a horrifying, tentacled fictional monster.
Sollasina cthulhu
About the size of a large spider
It crawled along the ocean floor and captured food with 45 tentacle-like tube feet
The original Cthulhu
The memorable character in the fantasy novels of H.P. Lovecraft is a giant, ancient tentacled being, the sight of which would drive a person insane
Lovecraft's 1934 sketch of Cthulhu
The fossils of soft-tissued animals have posed a difficult problem – their delicate body parts are crushed beyond recognition
The researchers' creation of Cthulhu's image was a breakthrough for paleontologists
Assembled image of fossil
High-resolution physical-optical tomography
1 Fossil is ground away in thin slices, and each slice is photographed digitally
2 Computer assembles hundreds of slice images, reconstructing them into a "virtual fossil," revealing thin, soft tissues
Source: Derek Briggs of Yale University; Oxford University; University of Leicester; Imperial College London; University College London; Proceedings of the Royal Society B journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

LONDON (AP)—The World Health Organization has issued its first-ever guidance for how much screen time children under 5 should get: not very much, and none at all for those under 1.

The U.N. health agency said Wednesday that kids under 5 should not spend more than one hour watching screens every day—and that less is better.

The guidelines are somewhat similar to advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics. That group recommends children younger than 18 months should avoid screens other than video chats. It says parents of young children under two should choose "high-quality programming" with educational value and that can be watched with a parent to help kids understand what they're seeing.

Life & Style

'Avengers: Endgame' poised to topple box-office records

NEW YORK (AP)—By any measure, the release of "Avengers: Endgame" is a movie-theater event unlike any other.

When the 22nd film in Marvel Studios' saga opens in North American theaters on Thursday night, it will land on more screens than any movie ever has in U.S. and Canadian theaters. And even still, the 4,600 theaters the Walt Disney Co. has lined up may still not be able to keep up with demand.

Beginning Thursday night, many theaters will stay open round-the-clock. Seventeen AMC Theatres won't close for 72 hours straight. Some $120 million in presales have already set records on advance ticketing services Fandango and Atom. AMC's website was crashed by early "Endgame" ticket buyers.

"It looks like we've gotten Thanos' snap," AMC said at the time.

Just how massive the ticket sales will be by the end of Sunday has been one of the one of the industry's favorite guessing games. Can it clear $300 million domestically? Is a $1 billion worldwide weekend possible? Will "Avengers: Endgame" eventually rival the $2.8 billion total gross of "Avatar" in 2009?

Regardless, records will fall—and they have already started to. Disney said Wednesday that "Avengers: Endgame" grossed about $107.2 million in China on Wednesday, where it first opened. That's already the most lucrative single day ever in Chinese theaters. Only "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" had a larger single day gross, and its one-day $119.1 million haul came from both U.S. and Canada theaters.

AP

From left, Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige, leftmost, poses with members of the cast of "Avengers: End Game," Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, and Mark Ruffalo at a hand and footprint ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, in Los Angeles.

"This is a seismic box-office event," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "This is like the 100-year-flood of movies."

The current opening weekend record is held by the last "Avengers" movie—the 2018 preamble to "Endgame," "Infinity War." It debuted with $257.7 million domestically and $640.5 million worldwide.

Both of those records are likely toast. The worldwide haul is certain to be obliterated that because "Infinity War" didn't debut in China until two weeks later. "Endgame" is opening worldwide more or less simultaneously everywhere except Russia.

Estimates range from $260 million to $300 million domestically, and between $800 million and $1 billion globally.

Helping the cause is that reviews, at 97 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes, have been among the best for any Marvel movie. "Endgame" concludes not just the arc of the "Avengers" movies but signals the completion of the 22-movie Marvel Cinematic Universe, as mapped out by Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige.

Feige has been tight-lipped about what the next phase will be, though he has new reinforcements. Disney's acquisition of 20th Century Fox brings Marvel's X-Men and Deadpool under the same roof.

"Endgame" will give a much-needed jolt to the box office, which is running about 16 percent behind the pace of 2018. Ironically, though, the weekend won't be much an improvement over the same time frame last year since that's when "Infinity War" opened. And no other wide release is daring to open against "Endgame."

Britney Spears to fans: 'All is well' despite family stress

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears says that though her family has been stressed lately, she's doing OK.

The pop star on Tuesday posted a video to her Instagram, telling her fans: "Just checking in with all of you who are concerned about me. All is well. My family has been going through a lot of stress and anxiety lately, so I just needed time to deal. Don't worry. I'll be back very soon."

In January, she said she was putting her career on indefinite hiatus for the sake of her father, who is sick. The launch run of her "Britney: Domination" residency in Las Vegas was put on hold until further notice. Earlier this month, Spears said she had decided to focus on self-care as she goes through a rough stretch.

In the caption of Tuesday's video post, Spears wrote that she "wanted to say hi, because things that are being said have just gotten out of control!"

"There's rumors, death threats to my family and my team, and just so many things crazy things being said. ... Don't believe everything you read and hear," the 37-year-old wrote.

She posted a new video of herself working out and dancing Wednesday on Instagram, writing: "Who knew stress would be a great 5 pound weight loss. Yay for me."

Sting on Las Vegas residency, new album

NEW YORK (AP)—Sin City? More like Sting City.

Grammy-winning superstar Sting is heading to Las Vegas to launch a residency next year.

Sixteen performances of "Sting: My Songs" will take place at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace, beginning May 22, 2020. Shows are also planned for June, August and September.

"Visually, sound-wise, dancing—it's going to be a Vegas show. I'm really committed to that," Sting said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I am a little frightened and a little excited at the same time."

Tickets for the general public, starting at $59, go on sale May 3.

Sting said he's been offered a residency in Vegas in the past, but he felt it wasn't the right time: "I always thought, 'I'm not quite ready for that. I'm still a touring animal.' (Now) I'm ready."

Residencies in Vegas once were meant for acts heading into retirement or in the final stretch of their careers, but that's changed with contemporary artists going to the city to perform, from Jennifer Lopez to Lady Gaga.

Sting said he likes the idea of performing at a single venue every night, compared to traveling city-to-city on a normal tour.

"Being in one place is actually a different, spiritual vibe," the English performer said. "Welcoming people into your house—that's basically what it's going to be. I'll be telling the story of my life through songs. I've had a long, interesting life and I can't wait."

Before he heads to Vegas, Sting has a string of projects in the works: He'll tour the United Kingdom with Shaggy (they won the best reggae album Grammy this year for their collaborative album "44/876"); he has a number of solo shows in the United States and around the world; and he will release a new album, "My Songs," on May 24.

The album finds Sting reshaping and re-imagining some of his biggest hits, from "Every Breath You Take" to "If You Love Somebody Set Them Free."

"We weren't treating the original recordings as holy relics or museum pieces ... we were just having fun with the songs," said the 67-year-old, adding that his voice is now "different to what it was 30, 40 years ago. It has more texture, a richness to it."

His song, "Shape of My Heart," will also appear on the new album. The tune has been sampled by a number of artists throughout the years, from rapper Nas to Grammy-winning R&B singer Monica to English singer Craig David, who collaborated with Sting when he re-worked the song in 2002.

Affair that led to a long marriage remains a secret

DEAR ABBY: Many years ago, I had an affair with a married man. We eventually married and have had a long, happy life together. It was love at first sight for me. Both of us had children with our former spouses.

Since no one knows about our affair, I'm wondering what I should do with our love letters and the poems we wrote to each other over those five years. Neither of us wants to hurt our children or grandchildren nor be remembered negatively after our deaths. It would certainly shock them all. However, there is much information in these letters that might give insight into why we both wanted divorces so we could marry. We are getting along in years, so please advise.

WONDERING IN TEXAS

DEAR WONDERING: I see nothing to be gained by sharing these letters and poems. You and your husband have had a long and happy union. Because nobody knows about the affair and no questions have been raised about your earlier marriages, I see nothing positive about disclosing that information after your death.

DEAR ABBY: We recently received an invitation to a party for our child's fifth-grade graduation class. The host is charging $15 per adult and $10 per fifth-grade child ("children under 5 are free"). The invitation also states that spaces are limited and we need to book our attendance with a payment method in advance.

My husband and I think this is very tacky. In addition to that, we find it poor form that this is being billed as the "party of the year" with "limited seating" for our child's class. What are we teaching our children these days? Is it a popularity contest? Is it that the kids from economically challenged homes are not welcome in our homes? What do you make of this?

UNEASY IN MARYLAND

DEAR UNEASY: I think the amount is excessive. What I make of it is that the entire class is being invited to celebrate the occasion, but the parents who are organizing the event have decided to turn it into a profit-making venture. If this doesn't sit well with you, skip the party and plan to do something privately with your child.

DEAR ABBY: I work in a branch of a large company that puts out a candy dish for our customers. A woman from another building (different company not related to us) often cuts through our office to get to the main street and other businesses. When she comes through, she ransacks our candy dishes, looking for a couple of specific types of candy. It happens on a daily basis! We even gave her a "Christmas gift" hoping to satisfy her candy cravings. She brought the gift container back to us (empty) for next Christmas! How do we stop this behavior without being rude?

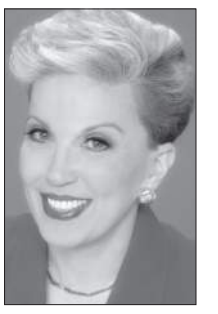
SWEET TOOTH IN THE EAST

DEAR SWEET TOOTH: It is not rude to draw the line when someone crosses it. The next time the woman raids the candy dish, the person nearest to it should tell her plainly it is intended for customers only! As for that candy container she returned, toss it. Giving her a present for "stealing" was a mistake, so don't perpetuate it.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

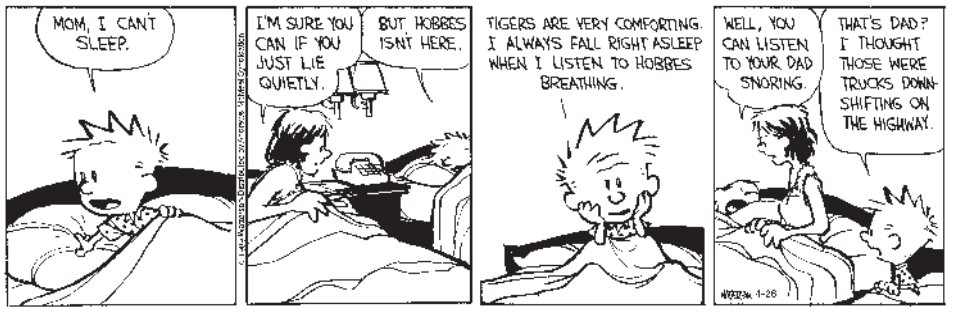


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM, I CAN'T SLEEP.
I'M SURE YOU CAN IF YOU JUST LIE QUIETLY.
BUT HOBBES ISN'T HERE.
TIGERS ARE VERY COMFORTING. I ALWAYS FALL RIGHT ASLEEP WHEN I LISTEN TO HOBBES BREATHING.
WELL, YOU CAN LISTEN TO YOUR DAD SNORING.
THAT'S DAD? I THOUGHT THOSE WERE TRUCKS DOWN-SHIFTING ON THE HIGHWAY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD.
SON.
WILL YOU TELL KATY IT'S NOT OKAY TO ATTACK A STREET MAGICIAN?
I UNDERSTAND MY MENTALIST SKILLS LEFT HER BAFFLED AND DAZED...
BUT VIOLENCE ISN'T THE ANSWER.
KATY! DON'T NOOGIE THE MIND FREAK!
4-26

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Venus, to Serena
4 Sad
8 Padlocked fastener
12 E.T.'s craft
13 Slithery
14 New York canal
15 Sobriquet
17 Karate level
18 Poolroom prop
19 Livid
20 Fury
22 Coal source
24 Loathe
25 "The — Papers" (Dickens novel)
29 Bird (Pref.)
30 Hay bundles
31 — chi
32 Fined for speeding, e.g.
34 Shopper's aid
35 Geese formations
36 Selects from a group
37 Everglades wader
40 Delhi dress
41 Hip
42 Popular playground game
46 Corridor
47 Adhesive
48 Born abroad?
49 Rhyming tributes
50 Hotel furniture
51 Boston team, for short

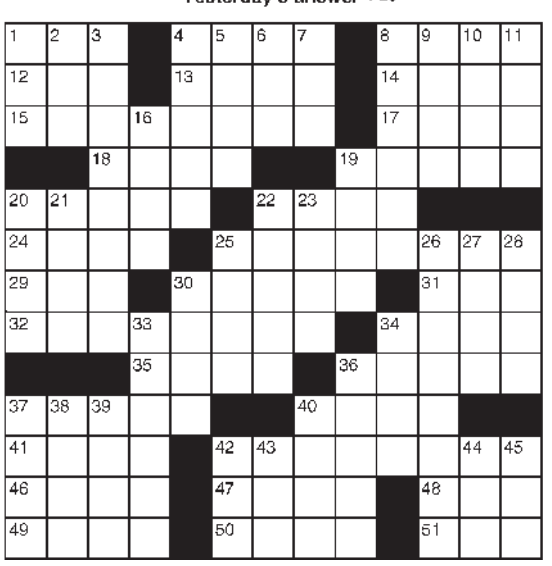
DOWN

1 Day light?
2 "— Had a Hammer"
3 Relating to Plato's teacher
4 Dugout seating
5 Plumbing woe
6 Einstein's birthplace
7 CBS logo
8 Semitic language
9 Region
10 Sediment
11 Seeger or Sampras
16 Winslet of "Titanic"
19 Pen fluids
20 "Huh?"
21 Sitarist Shankar
22 Odometer reading
23 On the rocks
25 Cracker spread
26 Natives of Rome
27 Poet Sandburg
28 Young foxes
30 Borscht veggie
33 Gushes with pride
34 Street edge
36 Bakery array
37 Canyon sound
38 Incite
39 Actor's quest
40 Gulf War missile
42 Old CIA foe
43 — -de-France
44 Zodiac cat
45 Superman foe Luthor

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	E	W	N		A	R	G		S	M	O	G
A	C	H	E		S	E	I		T	A	C	A
P	R	E	S		C	F	F		E	N	D	S
S	U	N	T	A	N		T	E	N	D		
			L	I	G	H	T	R	O	A	S	T
P	A	V	E	D		O	A	R		R	E	O
A	L	A	S		A	N	G		V	I	N	E
I	O	G		E	C	O		B	A	N	D	S
H	E	A	V	Y	C	R	E	A	M			
		B	I	E	R		N	A	F	K	I	N
S	L	O	B		J	S	A		I	N	C	A
G	E	N	E		E	S	C		F	C	O	S
I	E	D	S		S	E	I		E	I	N	A

Yesterday's answer 4-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jemima Kirke, 34; Channing Tatum, 39; Tom Welling, 42; Kevin James, 54.

Happy Birthday: Take note of what's going on around you this year. If you respond based on emotions, you will make a mistake that can cost you personally or professionally. Listen to expert advice, and consider every angle of whatever situation you face this year before you make a commitment or promise that will add to your responsibilities. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 28, 31, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Charm coupled with finesse, intelligence and a plan that will open doors that have been closed will lead to new opportunities. A chance to improve your financial, physical or emotional well-being is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A quick response will leave you in an awkward position. Instability should be handled with caution. Size up where everyone else stands before revealing your thoughts. If you want to get ahead or be accepted, remain neutral. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Tell it like it is. If you feel you need to get something off your chest, speak from the heart and be willing to listen in order to find common ground. Put your differences aside, and make romance and self-improvement priorities. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Find a way to assist others without making a cash donation. Offer your time, experience and insight. A last-minute change will save you from getting roped into something you'd prefer not to do. Don't share personal information. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Stay calm, regardless of what transpires. An incident can lead to an emotional outburst if handled the wrong way. A pleasing and positive response will help ward off any potential upset or disagreement. Getting together with old friends will be eye-opening. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Live and learn. Get involved in conversations and events that will teach you something about life. Reviewing your current situation and the options available will help you come up with a way to make improvements to your living arrangements. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Draw on what's available to you, and you will be able to initiate the changes that will motivate you to let go of the past. Make a financial adjustment that will counter any loss you might suffer due to emotional instability. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Get involved in events or gatherings that interest you. A change of attitude will please some but not others. Follow your heart, and do what feels right. You can't please everyone, so look out for your best interest. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put a little muscle behind domestic projects; you will be happy with the results. Invite friends over to help you with the changes you want to make. Sharing precious moments with someone you love is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Stop talking about what you want to do; make it happen. It's up to you to follow through, and the satisfaction you get from what you accomplish will stifle a friend or relative from criticizing or complaining. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Just be yourself, and doors will open. Get involved in events and with people who have something interesting to offer. New friendships will develop that will prompt you to try something new. Love and romance are highlighted. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A mixture of practicality and creativity will help bring about positive change. What you contribute to a project or group effort will change the way others treat you. An offer will lead to an unexpected and exciting turnabout. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, unpredictable and entertaining. You are bold and strong-minded.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		3	1		5	
5							6
			7	4			
1		3			6		2
8		6			5		7
			9	5			
7							1
	4		8	3		2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	3	6	7	9	5	2	8	4
2	7	4	6	3	8	5	1	9
5	8	9	2	1	4	6	7	3
4	1	8	9	2	3	7	6	5
3	5	7	4	8	6	9	2	1
9	6	2	1	5	7	3	4	8
8	2	5	3	7	1	4	9	6
7	4	1	5	6	9	8	3	2
6	9	3	8	4	2	1	5	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE — Solution: 9 letters

F	Y	N	A	P	M	O	C	G	N	I	G	N	O	L
A	R	G	A	I	M	H	E	G	N	U	O	Y	A	O
M	O	S	N	O	S	R	R	A	O	H	L	O	N	O
I	T	D	D	I	I	A	I	D	C	O	I	R	C	H
L	S	S	R	M	T	G	Y	E	V	T	S	I	I	C
Y	I	E	D	E	L	T	N	E	M	I	T	N	E	S
W	H	A	F	A	C	E	N	E	A	I	E	E	N	Y
C	I	U	T	S	E	N	C	A	R	R	N	V	T	A
O	L	S	M	E	T	R	E	S	T	A	S	U	N	D
N	O	I	H	R	D	L	U	I	I	R	H	O	E	M
N	L	H	A	P	P	Y	L	S	R	N	O	S	M	E
E	L	E	S	S	O	N	M	A	A	E	I	P	O	M
C	H	I	L	D	H	O	O	D	C	E	P	M	M	O
T	H	I	N	K	E	S	O	L	D	E	R	X	E	I
N	R	A	E	Y	T	C	E	P	S	O	R	T	E	R

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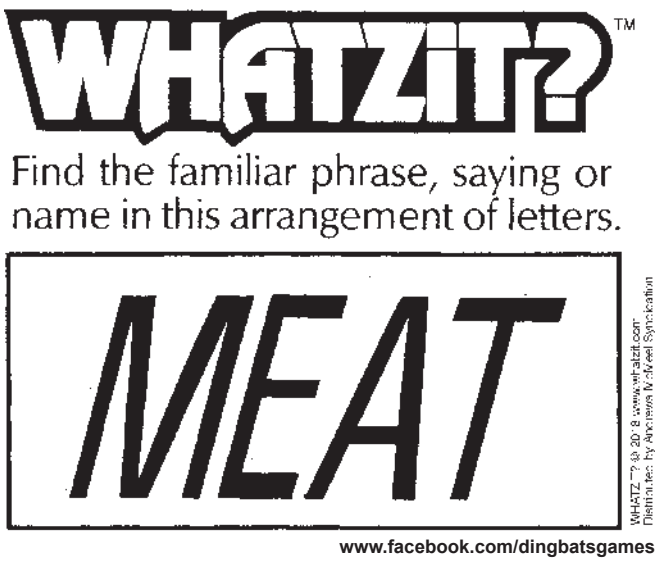

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NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: CLIENT ADVOCATE
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10 ($26,665-$41,367)
REPORTS TO: PROGRAM MANAGER

OVERVIEW:

This is a non-exempt position for non-legal advocacy on behalf of clients with disabilities primarily on Saipan which includes direct client representation and general outreach activities in the community. The Client Advocate reports to the Program Manager and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures with some latitude for independent action.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ An Associates Degree (A.A. or A.S.) in any related field or no less than 60 credit hours from a post secondary school; and
- ✓ Two (2) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of the work in protection and advocacy systems or other related fields.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION WILL BE ON MAY 6, 2019 AT 4PM.

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Ty Izuka
P.O. Box 501608
287-7028

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: Clayton T. Izuka Minor Child By: Ty Toshio Izuka Petitioners	)))))))	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0151 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for hearing on April 29, 2019, at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 24 day of April, 2019.
Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

JOB TITLE: Painter
NUMBER OF OPENING: 300
WAGES/SALARY: $8.35 per hour / Overtime Rate: $12.52 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on May 06, 2019 and ending on May 05, 2020

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Fill cracks, holes, or joints with caulk, putty, plaster, or other fillers, using caulking guns or putty knives.
- Cover surfaces with dropcloths or masking tape and paper to protect surfaces during painting.
- Smooth surfaces, using sandpaper, scrapers, brushes, steel wool, or sanding machines.
- Read work orders or receive instructions from supervisors or homeowners to determine work requirements.
- Apply primers or sealers to prepare new surfaces, such as bare wood or metal, for finish coats.
- Apply paint, stain, varnish, enamel, or other finishes to equipment, buildings, bridges, or other structures, using brushes, spray guns, or rollers.
- Erect scaffolding or swing gates, or set up ladders, to work above ground level.
- Mix and match colors of paint, stain, or varnish with oil or thinning and drying additives to obtain desired colors and consistencies.
- Calculate amounts of required materials and estimate costs, based on surface measurements or work orders.
- Polish final coats to specified finishes.
- Wash and treat surfaces with oil, turpentine, mildew remover, or other preparations, and sand rough spots to ensure that finishes will adhere properly.
- Select and purchase tools or finishes for surfaces to be covered, considering durability, ease of handling, methods of application, and customers' wishes.
- Remove old finishes by stripping, sanding, wire brushing, burning, or using water or abrasive blasting.
- Remove fixtures such as pictures, door knobs, lamps, or electric switch covers prior to painting.
- Use special finishing techniques such as sponging, ragging, layering, or faux finishing.
- Cut stencils and brush or spray lettering or decorations on surfaces.
- Waterproof buildings, using waterproofers or caulk.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Painter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will has 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is $8.35 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of $12.52.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

JOB TITLE: Construction Supervisor
NUMBER OF OPENING: 100
WAGES/SALARY: $21.95 per hour / Overtime Rate: $32.92 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on April 15, 2019 and ending on April 14, 2020

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Supervise, coordinate, or schedule the activities of construction or extractive workers.
- Read specifications, such as blueprints, to determine construction requirements or to plan procedures.
- Inspect work progress, equipment, or construction sites to verify safety or to ensure that specifications are met.
- Locate, measure, and mark site locations or placement of structures or equipment, using measuring and marking equipment.
- Coordinate work activities with other construction project activities.
- Assign work to employees, based on material or worker requirements of specific jobs.
- Estimate material or worker requirements to complete jobs.
- Confer with managerial or technical personnel, other departments, or contractors to resolve problems or to coordinate activities. Order or requisition materials or supplies.
- Analyze worker or production problems and recommend solutions, such as improving production methods or implementing motivational plans.
- Train workers in construction methods, operation of equipment, safety procedures, or company policies. Record information such as personnel, production, or operational data on specified forms or reports. Provide assistance to workers engaged in construction or extraction activities, using hand tools or other equipment.
- Arrange for repairs of equipment or machinery.
- Suggest or initiate personnel actions, such as promotions, transfers, or hires.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a **Construction Supervisor** is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will has 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is $21.95 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of $32.92.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

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Yankees rally from 5 runs down to beat Angels

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— DJ LeMahieu hardly ever shows emotion between the lines, so his modest celebration after rounding first base must have meant his ninth-inning hit was something even bigger than the moment.

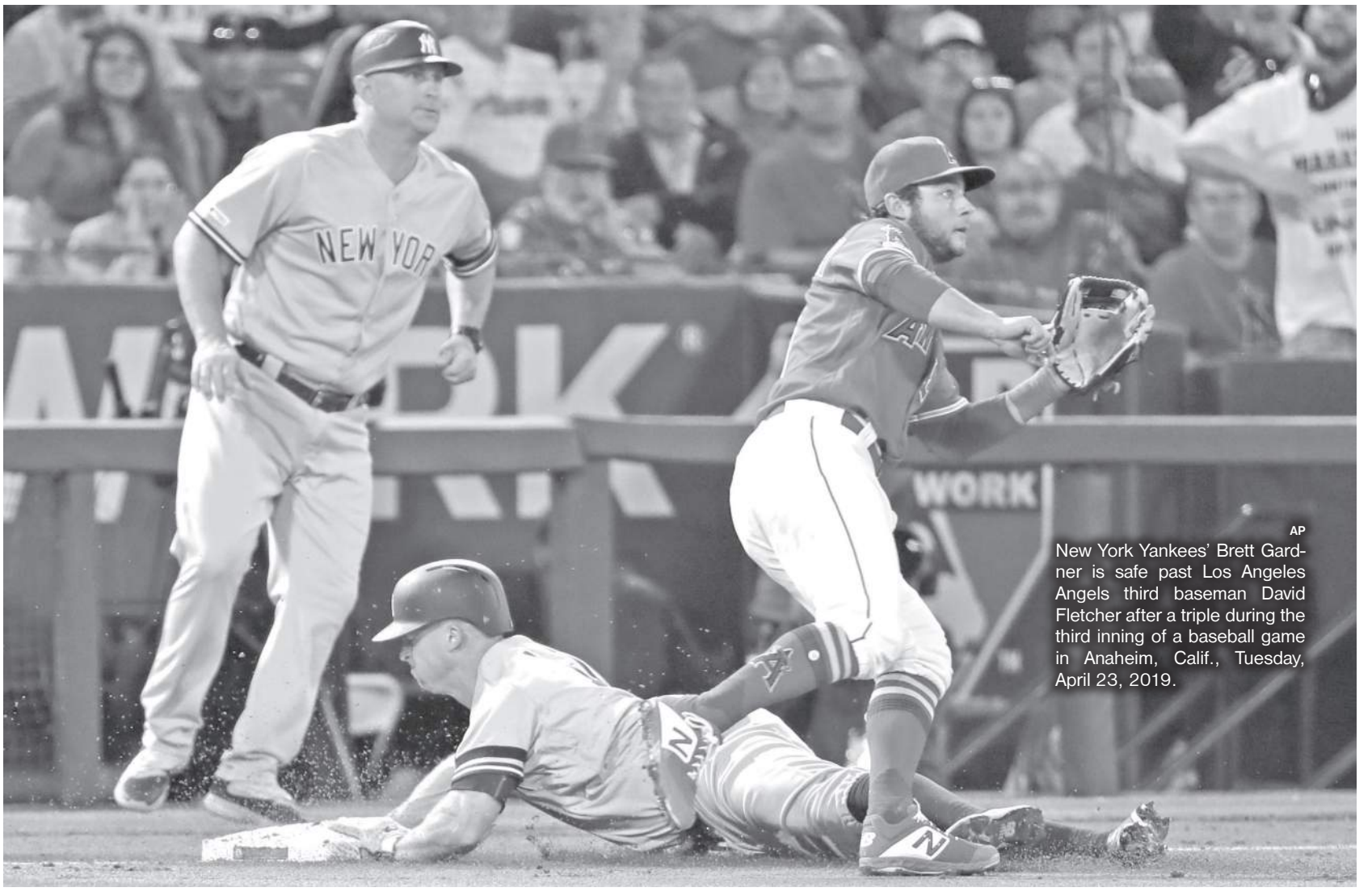
Whether it's a 5-0 deficit in the sixth inning or their dismaying list of injured stars, these New York Yankees are surmounting every obstacle with an early season determination that's already worth cheering.

LeMahieu singled home Tyler Wade with the tiebreaking run in the ninth, and the Yankees rallied from a five-run deficit for their sixth consecutive victory, 6-5, over the hapless Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday night.

"We don't have our big dogs, but we're finding a way, and it feels good," LeMahieu said. "We've got a lot of good players. That speaks to this organization. It's not how we drew it up in spring training, but we're getting wins and having fun."

The ninth-inning rally was pure grit: Wade made up for an earlier baserunning mishap with a two-out single off Ty Buttrey (1-1). After Wade stole second, LeMahieu was down to his last strike before he popped a short single to right, driving in his third run of the night and celebrating with one enthusiastic clap of his hands.

New York is still without Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton and Troy Tulowitzki, all among a revolving dozen players on its injured list. The Yankees shrugged it all off and rallied to win at Angel Stadium for a franchise-record sixth straight time.



AP

New York Yankees' Brett Gardner is safe past Los Angeles Angels third baseman David Fletcher after a triple during the third inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

Astros 7, Twins 1

In Houston, Justin Verlander pitched eight dominant innings, and Carlos Correa, Michael Brantley and Josh Reddick all homered to lead the Astros to a win over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday night.

Verlander (4-0) retired the first 10 batters before Jorge Polanco crushed a pitch into the second deck in right field in the fourth inning for the lone Twins run. Verlander retired 11 of the last 12 batters he faced.

The right-hander gave up one run and four hits while striking out eight for his seventh-straight win dating back to last season.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 2

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright was warm enough on a cool day, allowing one run in six innings for his 150th career victory, and the Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers to complete a three-game sweep.

Last year's MVP, Christian Yelich, had most of the day off but still had a chance to rescue the Brewers. He came up as a pinch-hitter with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, but Jordan Hicks struck him out to pick up his seventh save in eight chances.

Wainwright (2-2) matched his season low in runs allowed, and it was his first quality start in a game with a starting temperature of 60 degrees or cooler since May 27, 2017.

Red Sox 11, Tigers 4

In Boston, J.D. Martinez had three hits and Eduardo Rodriguez pitched six strong innings as the Red Sox rebounded from a doubleheader sweep by Detroit and beat the Tigers, 11-4.

The defending World Series champion Red Sox avoided their fourth losing streak of three games or more. They had only four losing streaks of three games each last season while piling up a club record 108 victories.

Martinez hit two singles, a double and drove in a run, and Christian Vázquez had two singles.

Padres 1, Mariners 0

In San Diego, rookie Chris Paddack shut down baseball's highest-scoring offense for his first victory, holding Seattle to one hit in seven innings and retiring his final 19 batters, nine by strikeout.

Paddack and relievers Trey Wingenter and Kirby Yates combined on a two-hitter.

Ian Kinsler homered off Felix Hernandez (1-2) and the Padres swept the two-game series. They've beaten the Mariners six straight times and won three straight overall following a six-game losing streak.

Giants 4, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Drew Pomeranz and two relievers combined on a two-hitter, Pablo Sandoval homered for the second straight game, and San Francisco completed a two-game sweep of the Blue Jays.

Buster Posey, Brandon Belt and Evan Longoria all hit RBI doubles as the Giants won their second straight following a season-high four-game losing streak.

The Jays were shut out for the first time since opening day, a 2-0 loss to Detroit in 10 innings.

Royals 10, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Tampa Bay ace Blake Snell lasted one out into the fourth inning in his return from a broken right fourth toe as Kansas City cruised to victory.

The 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner, who hurt the toe attempting to move a decorative display in his bathroom on April 14, allowed three runs, five hits, two walks and struck out three during a 65-pitch outing.

The left-hander (2-2) had given up one run and nine hits over 19 innings in three starts prior to the injury.

Indians 6, Marlins 2

In Cleveland, Jose Ramirez homered and drove in four runs, Jake Bauers' eighth-inning single scored the go-ahead run and Cleveland beat Miami.

Martin Prado's two-out homer for Miami tied the game in the top of the eighth, but the Indians responded by scoring four times to snap a three-game losing streak.

Ramirez hit a two-out homer in the first and had an RBI single in the third. His eighth-inning double added two runs and capped Cleveland's big inning.

Adam Conley (0-3) walked Carlos Gonzalez to begin the eighth. Bauers slapped a ground ball through the open left side of the infield to score Gonzalez. Francisco Lindor's two-out single added another run. Leonys Martin was hit by a pitch and Ramirez doubled into the right field corner.

Rockies 9, Nationals 5

In Denver, Raimel Tapia had two doubles and drove in three runs to back a solid outing from German Marquez, and Colorado beat Washington.

Charlie Blackmon homered and Trevor Story extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a double and a triple. Nolan Arenado had three RBIs, David Dahl had three hits and Wade Davis picked up his third save. The Rockies have won eight of their last 10.

Juan Soto homered for the Nationals, who have yet to win more than two games in a row this season.

Braves 3, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Ozzie Albies homered on the game's first pitch and Ronald Acuna Jr. scored from first base on Yasiel Puig's fifth-inning error, helping the Atlanta Braves to a win over the Reds.

Acuna scored easily when Puig misplayed Nick Markakis's line drive single to right, allowing it to skip under his glove and roll to the wall for a two-base error.

Josh Donaldson doubled down the left field line to drive in Albies with an insurance run in the ninth.

Mike Soroka (1-1), in his second start of the season and seventh of his career, tied his career high with seven strikeouts.

Diamondbacks 11, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Ketel Marte homered twice and the Arizona Diamondbacks won at Pittsburgh for the ninth straight time.

Marte extended Arizona's lead to 5-1 with a solo shot in the fifth inning and drove a three-run shot, his sixth homer this season, into the left-field bleachers in the eighth. It was the third multi-homer game of his career and second this season.

Arizona's nine-game winning streak at PNC Park is its longest in an opponent's stadium, surpassing its eight straight at Philadelphia from June 17, 2016-April 24, 2018. The Diamondbacks have not lost in Pittsburgh since May 29, 2017, when Andrew McCutchen homered in the ninth of a 4-3 win for the Pirates.

Orioles 4, White Sox 3

In Baltimore, Stevie Wilkerson hit his first major league homer, John Means pitched five effective innings on his birthday and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Chicago White Sox to secure their second winning streak of the season.

Baltimore won two of three to capture its first series since April 1-3 in Toronto. The two straight victories are the Orioles' most since a four-game run that began at Yankee Stadium on March 30.

Wilkerson's second-chance solo shot off Ervin Santana (0-2) put the Orioles up 4-1 in the fourth. Earlier in the at-bat, Wilkerson walked to first base after apparently being hit by a pitch, but a replay proved otherwise. Three pitches later, he capped his 53rd big league at-bat by sending a hanging slider into the center-field bleachers.

Phillies 6, Mets 0

In New York, Rhys Hoskins homered off reliever Jacob Rhame and taunted him with a slow jog around the bases a night after Rhame buzzed him with two fastballs, and the struggling Philadelphia Phillies beat the New York Mets.

Hoskins was furious after Rhame sailed two pitches over his head with two outs in the ninth inning of New York's 9-0 win Tuesday. The slugger faced Rhame again in the ninth Wednesday, flipping his bat emphatically after hooking a two-run shot over the wall in left.

Big Ben signs 2-year extension with Steelers

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers have reiterated repeatedly during an eventful offseason that quarterback Ben Roethlisberger remains the team's unquestioned leader. They have handed him a new deal to prove it.

The Steelers and the two-time Super Bowl winner agreed to terms on a contract extension Wednesday that will keep Roethlisberger in Pittsburgh through the 2021 season. Roethlisberger had been set to enter the final year of a contract he signed in 2015. Financial terms were not disclosed, but Roethlisberger figures to get a significant pay bump over the $12 million he was due (with a $23 million cap hit) in 2019.

"It has always been a goal to play my entire career in Pittsburgh," Roethlisberger said in a statement. "This is home for me and my family, and we love this city. I am as excited to be a Steeler in Year 16 as I was when they drafted me. They will get my absolute best."

The deal gives Pittsburgh some stability going forward after the high-profile departures of wide receiver Antonio Brown and running back Le'Veon Bell. Brown pouted his way into a trade with the Oakland Raiders in March while Bell signed with the New York Jets as a free agent after sitting out all of 2018 when he opted not to sign his franchise tender.

Roethlisberger, who turned 37 last month, is coming off the finest statistical season of his 15-year career. His 5,129 yards passing led the NFL and his 34 touchdown passes broke his own franchise mark. Yet his once-solid relationship with Brown appeared to deteriorate during a late slide that culminated in a 9-6-1 finish, a swoon that caused the Steelers to miss the playoffs for the first time since 2013.

Brown sat out a crucial Week 17 game against Cincinnati and in the aftermath lashed out on social media, blaming Roethlisberger for having an "owner mentality."

Steelers general manager Kevin Colbert went out of his way to defend the quarterback, saying that in a way, Roethlisberger was dealing with "52 kids" on the roster, a challenge for some of Roethlisberger's teammates to take on a greater role in the locker room. Not that Roethlisberger minds the responsibility. He has been unapologetic in his approach and unafraid to call out himself and others when the team fails to play to the standard it has set for itself during his largely successful tenure.

AP
In this Dec. 16, 2018, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) warms up in an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, in Pittsburgh.

Harris wants out

In Colorado, Denver Broncos star cornerback Chris Harris Jr. told The Associated Press on Tuesday night that he wants to be traded if general manager John Elway doesn't give him a contract extension.

Elway insisted earlier Tuesday in his pre-draft news conference that he's not angry with Harris for skipping Denver's offseason program, unlike five years ago, when he ripped receiver Demaryius Thomas for doing the same thing during a contract stalemate.

Elway reiterated that he'll address Harris' contract demands after this weekend's NFL draft but quickly added: "I said we're going to talk about it. It doesn't mean we're going to do it."

That didn't sit well with Harris, who told The Associated Press in a text that he no longer wants to play in Denver if Elway doesn't want to give him an extension.

"Yep, been disrespected too many times. In the media," Harris said via text.

It's the first time Harris has publicly discussed a desire to leave Denver should things not work out.

Column: 'Special' class could make draft epic

Maybe we're on the verge of something epic. This NFL draft swings so heavily toward the defense that there's probably a new rule being written at this very instant to combat that.

Sure, Kyler Murray, the gunslinger with wheels, is widely expected to be picked No. 1 overall on Thursday night in Nashville. But after that? Defense is supposed to rule.

Perhaps nearly 20 defensive players will be picked in the first round. Records for first-round selections of edge rushers (8, 2017) and defensive tackles (6, 2001 and 2003) have been put on notice. At the scouting combine a few weeks ago, defensive players stole the show with eye-popping times. And one day, we'll possibly look back on this draft as somebody's launchpad on a trek to Canton.

At least those are the expectations for what is widely hailed as a special defensive class.

"We always talk about the quarterback Class of '83, and how all of those guys are Hall of Famers," Anthony "Booger" McFarland, ESPN's analyst for Monday Night Football, pondered. "They all started with talent. This draft has some talent like that."

Some will contend that Ohio State defensive end Nick Bosa is the best player in the draft, a strong consideration for the Arizona Cardinals if Murray isn't the top pick. Then again, Kentucky linebacker Josh Allen looks to be a better athlete than Bosa. There's a chance, too, that Alabama defensive tackle Quinnen Williams, rated No. 1 on the overall board by Ourlads.com, will have the biggest impact of them all, so long as he is able to wreck pockets from the inside as he did in college.

Other potential NFL household names: Christian Wilkins. Ed Oliver. Brian Burns. Rashan Gary. Greedy Williams, a cornerback with a moniker that suggests he's hungry for the ball.

Then there are the Devins, White and Bush. Both are inside linebackers, from LSU and Michigan, respectively. The other thing they have in common is that they are game-changers.

Maybe it will come to this for some team: We took the best available Devin.

This draft was made for somebody who goes by the nickname, "Booger." McFarland won Super Bowl rings while performing grunt work in the trenches as a defensive tackle for the Bucs and Colts, but as he's evolved as a broadcaster he's seen the game tilt even further toward offense.

"It's really good to see a draft, particularly the first round, that's going to be dominated by defense," McFarland said. "More importantly, it's good to see the influx of talent coming into the NFL."

It's fitting. For all of the records for points and yardage set or threatened in the NFL last season, the ultimate prize was settled in a defensive standoff. The Patriots claimed their sixth Lombardi Trophy by surviving the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever. To get there, they won a shootout against the high-flying Chiefs in the AFC title game that proved bad defenses (Kansas City's) don't win championships.

Well, this is the week to take a few more significant steps to fix the issue. The Chiefs, who discarded edge rushers Justin Houston and Dee Ford, obtained defensive end Frank Clark from the Seahawks on Tuesday. That followed the big free-agent signing of versatile safety Tyrann Mathieu.

The deep defensive draft couldn't have come at a better time for the Chiefs and other teams (hello, Tampa Bay) seeking major overhauls on defense.

"This is a great defensive draft, I think, all the way to Round 7," new Bucs coach Bruce Arians declared while undoubtedly hoping to benefit.

The impressive performances at the combine only added fuel to expectations. Montez Sweat, a 6-6, 260-pound defensive end from Mississippi State, had the fastest 40-yard dash time (4.41) of any defensive lineman in combine history.

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Clippers stun Warriors again to stay alive

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) —Lou Williams again came off the bench and knocked down big shot after big shot. Patrick Beverley crashed the boards at every chance. Danilo Gallinari drove the lane with authority.

The Los Angeles Clippers took the Warriors right out of their comfort zone by beating the two-time defending champions at their own game with energy on both ends, extending their season long after many had counted them out.

Williams hit a fadeaway jumper with 1:29 left and finished with 33 points and 10 assists, Golden State uncharacteristically clanked shots much of the second half and couldn't make key stops, and the upstart Clippers sent their first-round series back home with a 129-121 Game 5 win on Wednesday night.

No clinch celebration just yet for the two-time defending champions, who lead 3-2 but needed far more than Kevin Durant's playoff career-high 45 points.

"I don't want to get ahead of myself. They're up 3-2 still, but I just loved how we played, I really did," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "All we talked about is being us. I told our guys, they've been them in the series. We have yet to put a game where we are us through the game."

The Clippers stymied Golden State's comeback effort on the very court at Oracle Arena where Los Angeles rallied from 31 points down in Game 2 for the largest comeback in NBA postseason history.

Game 6 is Friday back in Los Angeles.

Beverley took a big charge against Klay Thompson with 1:40 left and wound up with 17 points and 14 rebounds for his best outing of the series.

"I thought Patrick Beverley came in, just kicked our butts right away," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "He came out with more energy than we had and that set a tone."

Houston and James Harden are on to the second round and waiting for another chance at the champs. The Clippers said not just yet, they're not done.

The Rockets, who squandered a 3-2 series lead to the Warriors in last year's Western Conference finals, eliminated the Jazz with a 100-93 Game 5 victory at home a few hours earlier Wednesday. Sure, the Warriors have thought about a potential second-round matchup.

"Our focus was to come in and extend the series and get another game on our home floor," Williams said. "It's their mistake for looking ahead. That's on them."

Gallinari added 26 points and seven rebounds, and Montrezl Harrell had 24 points as the eighth-seeded Clippers are keeping things interesting until the end.

"We've got to bring it if we're going to beat them," Kerr said.

Durant raised his arm late and called on the Oracle Arena crowd for a major assist —the Warriors needed every little bit of help. Thompson's 3 with 4:02 left made it 116-114 and Durant tied it on a driving dunk the next time down.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points and Thompson 22 but Golden State didn't have it on defense.

"If we come out and just think we're going to roll over this team because they're an 8 seed, it doesn't work that way in the NBA playoffs," Warriors center Andrew Bogut said.

Durant shot 14 for 26 in his third performance of at least 30 points in the series and ninth 40-point postseason effort.

Curry, already the NBA's career playoff leader for made 3-pointers, reached 400 postseason 3s.

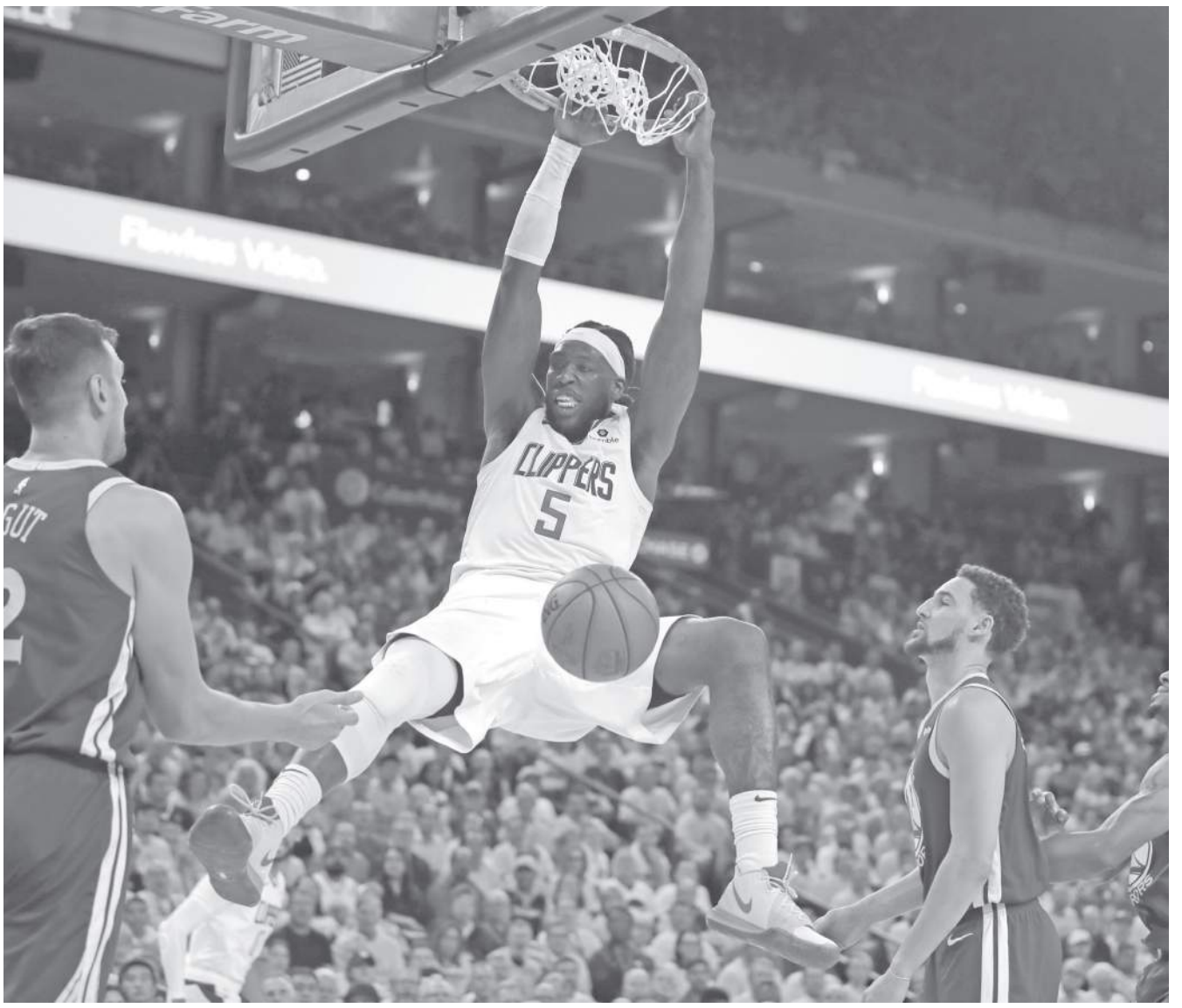
But the Warriors—all of them, their best shooters—missed badly on good looks and couldn't defend the way they typically do to generate that sensational transition game.

"That's the worst-case scenario for any team. You're missing shots and can't get stops, you feel like you're in a bottomless pit," Durant said. "Hopefully we knock down shots and get stops next game."

Golden State trailed 71-63 at halftime despite making 10 of 16 3s but allowed Los Angeles to shoot 56%, and the Clippers finished at 54.1%.

Gallinari hit a 3 out of the break then a free throw following Draymond Green's technical and Los Angeles made it 81-66 on JaMychal Green's 3 at the 9:09 mark.

"It's been a year where things haven't gone exactly smoothly all the time," Kerr said. "I'm not surprised by anything, but I expected to come out and play better and win the game. But it's the NBA playoffs. This is a seven-game series and you've got to play. You've got to defend with some urgency."



AP

Los Angeles Clippers' Montrezl Harrell (5) scores as Golden State Warriors' Andrew Bogut (12), Klay Thompson, second from right, and Andre Iguodala watch during the second half in Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in Oakland, Calif.

Rockets 100, Jazz 93

In Houston, in a series where their shots weren't falling like normal, the Rockets managed to close it out with some tough defense.

James Harden scored 26 points and the Rockets outlasted the Utah Jazz to win their first-round playoff series, 4-1.

Houston advanced to the Western Conference semifinals for the third straight season and will face the winner of the Los Angeles Clippers-Golden State Warriors series.

The Rockets had 12 steals and 12 blocks, the first playoff game where they had double figures in both since Game 5 of the 1994 Western Conference finals, just before they went on to win their first title.

"We didn't make as many shots as we wanted to ... but these last few games we hung our hat on defense," Harden said.

Ricky Rubio cut Houston's lead to 94-93 on a jump shot with about a minute left. P.J. Tucker missed two free throws, but grabbed a loose ball seconds later and was fouled again. This time he made both shots to make it 96-93.

Harden blocked a shot by Ruby Gobert on Utah's next possession and he made two free throws to extend the lead to 98-93 with 38 seconds left.

Donovan Mitchell, who was just 4 of 22, missed a 3-pointer after that and Chris Paul added two more free throws to secure the victory.

"We didn't want to go back to Utah," Paul said. "We wanted to take care of business tonight. All night we were talking about energy. It's always hard to beat a team and close them out."

The Rockets got a solid game from Clint Capela, who had 16 points and 10 rebounds. He acknowledged having trouble breathing in the Game 4 loss because of an upper respiratory infection and was held to just four points.

"I felt a lot better," Capela said. "I definitely felt like another person than (I did) the last game."

After scoring 31 points to lead Utah to the victory in Game 4, Mitchell managed just 12 points on a night he missed all nine of his 3-point attempts.

"I'm upset but I'm going to be better," the second-year player said. "Simply put. I wasn't tonight and I'll be better."

Jazz coach Quin Snyder lamented the difficulties of dealing with a veteran coach like Mike D'Antoni and perennial All-Stars Paul and Harden.

"They're so cerebral that they're able to find weaknesses in your defense," he said.

Harden struggled to get going early and didn't score in the first quarter. But after missing his first seven shots and 11 of his first 12 attempts, he finally found a rhythm.

Woods to play in new PGA Tour event in Japan

NEW YORK (AP)—Masters champion Tiger Woods is making an addition to his international travels at the end of this year, announcing Wednesday night that he will compete in Japan for the first time in 13 years at the new Zozo Championship.

Woods said on Twitter that he was excited to play the new tournament and described Japan as "one of my favorite countries."

"It's going to be a fun fall," he said.

Woods is U.S. captain for the Presidents Cup that will be held Dec. 12-15 at Royal Melbourne in Australia, giving the 43-year-old Woods at least two trips halfway around the world.

The Zozo Championship will be Oct. 24-27 at Accordia Golf Chiba Narashino Country Club, about 50 miles east of Tokyo. It is part of three tournaments that make up the PGA Tour's Asia Swing, following the CJ Cup in South Korea and the HSBC Champions in Shanghai.

The Japan tournament, cosanctioned with the Japan Golf Tour, is a 78-man field with a $9.75 million purse.

Woods last played in Japan in 2006 at the Dunlop Phoenix, where he lost in a playoff to Padraig Harrington. Woods won the Dunlop Phoenix the two previous years, beating Ryoken Kawagishi by nine shots in 2004, and beating Kaname Yokoo in a playoff in 2005.

He also hit one of his best wedge shots in Japan in the 2001 World Cup, when he hit a pitch into the bank of the green and into the cup for an eagle that got Woods and David Duval into four-team playoff. South Africa wound up winning the World Cup.

Woods won for the 81st time in his PGA Tour career two weeks ago at the Masters, winning his fifth green jacket and 15th major. He had overcome four back surgeries since the spring of 2014, the most recent one to fuse his lower back in April 2017.

Woods had cut back on his international travel while coping with back problems.

Except for his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas—a short flight from his home in Florida—the Dubai Desert Classic in 2017 is the only regular tour event he has played overseas since the first of his four back surgeries.

JP Hero Run scheduled for May 18

In line with Marianas March Against Cancer's theme "Superheroes," TanHoldings Corp. and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation will be holding the 2019 JP Hero Run on May 18.

The run is held annually in memory of John "JP" Pangelinan, a TanHoldings executive who passed away in 2008 due to cancer. Proceeds from the run will go to the Marianas March Against Cancer, the Commonwealth Cancer Association's signature fundraising event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Runners participating in the 2019 JP Hero Run will receive capes and masks, as the May 18 event follows Marianas March Against Cancer's theme "Superheroes."

Last year, TanHoldings had the JP Glow Run with runners cruising along Beach Road wearing glow sticks. This year, runners will be in capes and masks, depicting their favorite superheroes.

"We are all heroes for supporting a good cause—the MMAC and CCA. We are inviting everyone to come out and join the JP Hero Run," TanHoldings Community Relations director Carli Sablan said.

The run will have two courses. The 1.5K will start and end at the Garapan Fishing Base with a turnaround point just across the True Value Hardware along Beach Road. The 5K course will have the same start/finish line with a turnaround point just past the Quartermaster Road intersection.

Registration forms are available at the TanHoldings Corporate Affairs Office on the second floor of JP Center in Beach Road, Garapan and can be downloaded at http://bit.ly/jprun-2019form. Registration is only $10 if made by noon on May 17 and $15 on race day. Participants will receive an event T-shirt plus cape and mask. They will also get a raffle ticket for a chance to win a round-trip ticket to Manila.

Registration starts at 5am, while the race will begin at 6am.

For more information, call 235-0561 extension 100 or 116. ***(PR)***

'CRANK'

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myself in the MMA fight training camp. Drill and practice the strategy game plan for my next bout. The mental side of the fight is very intriguing to me and coach Oyama breaks it down in my language," the welterweight fighter said.

Camacho holds a 21-7 record and hopes to get back on track after his back-to-back losses last year. He bowed to Geoff Neal in the UFC 228: Woodley vs Till in Dallas last Sept. 8 and to Drew Dober in UFC on Fox 27: Jacare vs Brunson 2 in North Carolina last Jan. 27.

The bouts against Dober and Neal were part of Camacho's first four-fight contract with UFC. He won his second assignment with the MMA promotion company in November 2017 when he defeated Australia's Damien Brown via split decision in UFC Fight Night 121 in Sydney. Before his lone victory, Camacho lost his UFC debut to China's Jingliang Li in UFC Fight Night 111 in Singapore. The Marianas fighter earned Fight of the Night honors in his first three bouts and is thankful for the opportunity to showcase the islanders' fighting spirit in UFC.

"Just want to say thank you to my wife, Sarah, for being a huge supporter in my career and holding down the fort. The fighter lifestyle is a tough one, but I know no better way of representing the Marianas to the best of my ability but in the UFC. To my mom dad, family, the taangs, training partners back home, and the people of the Marianas... sen dunkalu na si yuus maase!"

Nadal rallies to advance at Barcelona Open

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Rafael Nadal recovered from a slow start to defeat Leonard Mayer 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 and advance to the third round of the Barcelona Open on Wednesday, keeping alive his streak of never losing consecutive matches on clay.

The second-ranked Nadal was coming off defeat to Fabio Fognini in the semifinals of the Monte Carlo Open last week.

An 11-time champion in Barcelona, Nadal will next play fellow Spaniard David Ferrer. The 37-year-old Ferrer, who is playing in Barcelona for the last time, defeated 15th-seeded Lucas Pouille 6-3, 6-1 in his second-round match.

The top-seeded Nadal squandered three set points in the first set, including two in the tiebreaker after exchanging breaks late in the set. He rebounded quickly by breaking Mayer's serve in the first game of the second set, then cruised to victory against the 63rd-ranked Argentine.

"It wasn't the best start. Not the best feelings out there this afternoon, but I found a way to keep going and to win the match. Today that's the main thing," Nadal said. "(Mayer) competes well against everybody but probably today (the problem) was not that he competed very well against me. I was not competing that well."

Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell
Trofeo Conde de Godó

Fognini won't be able to add to his Monte Carlo win after withdrawing from the Barcelona tournament because of a hamstring injury. He was replaced by 104th-ranked Roberto Carballes Baena, who opened with a 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2 win over Nicola Kuhn.

Seventh-seeded Daniil Medvedev reached the third round by defeating Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-3, 2-6, 6-1, while American Mackenzie McDonald advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 win over 11th-seeded Gilles Simon.

Canadian teenager Felix Auger-Aliassime defeated Malek Jaziri 6-3, 7-6 (7) to set up a third-round match against fourth-seeded Kei Nishikori.

Meanwhile, the ATP Finals is moving to Turin in 2021.

The Italian city will host the tennis event for five years through 2025, succeeding current host London.

The tournament will be played inside the PalaAlpitour, a 15,000-seat multi-purpose arena built to host hockey games during the 2006 Turin Olympics.

Five cities bid for the event, including: London; Manchester, England; Singapore; Tokyo; and Turin.

"Our congratulations to Turin on putting together such a comprehensive and impressive bid," ATP president Chris Kermode said Wednesday. "Italy provides us with one of the strongest and most established tennis markets in Europe and has a proven track record for hosting world class tennis events."

Held each November, the ATP Finals is the season-ending event for the top eight men's singles players and doubles teams.

"The ATP Finals is the biggest and most prestigious event that we have at the ATP. It's a tournament that has historically moved around and so I'm very excited to see it move to Turin from 2021," said top-ranked Novak Djokovic, a five-time winner of the event.

Italy also recently began hosting the Next Gen Finals, a year-end event for the best under-21 players. That tournament is slated to be held in Milan at least through 2021.

The Next Gen Finals and the ATP Finals are held on back-to-back weeks, which will create a Milan-Turin focal point for the sport.

"We look forward to bringing the ATP's flagship season-ending event to tennis' growing fan base in Italy for the first time," Kermode said

AGAPE

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end its silence and nailed a couple more baskets in the third period, the Eagles still fell behind, as Zheng, Hu, Miao, and Tang teamed up in handing Agape a 42-12 advantage, heading to the fourth.

Tang went on to finish off GCA in the final canto after recording 10 points.

Zheng led all scorers with his 18 points, while Tang and Miao chipped in with 14 and 12 markers, respectively.

Meanwhile, Agape completed a sweep yesterday after prevailing in the girls division match, 32-16.

Jenny Lin carried Agape to victory, as she accounted for 26 of the team's total points. Elvira Zhang, Mei Ou, and Kristy Wang also scored in Agape's easy win.

The Lady Torchbearers now hold a division best 3-0 record, while the Lady Eagles dropped to a 1-3 mark.

Boys Division

ACS 58—Zheng 18, Tang 14, Miao 12, Cai 4, Bao 2, Hu 2, Liang 2, Qiu 2.

GCA 16—Daproza 5, Alepuyo 4, Lerio 4, Yumul 2 Justin Du 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-0, 27-4, 42-12, 58-16.

SIS

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the 60m run (11.24 seconds), 100m (18.59 seconds), 200m (42.11 seconds), and 1,500m (13:51.68), topped the long jump trial (2.74 meters), and finished third in the softball throw (13.14m).

The qualifiers were selected after a series of trials last March and this month with Saipan schools receiving six slots and Tinian and Rota getting one apiece. In case Rota and Tinian qualifiers did not make it to the championships next weekend, Saipan students will take their spots. There maybe changes in the qualifiers list, as the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics and PSS are confirming the results with the school coaches/representatives.

Meanwhile, other qualifiers in the 60m run are Gross' schoolmate Lucy Woo, Koblerville's Sapalyn Apas, SCS' Allie Brasuell, San Vicente's Keniye Arriola, WSR's Harlow Pangelinan, Tinian's Kaisa San Nicolas, and Rota's Niarah Muna. Apas, Brasuell, Pangelinan, and San Nicolas also advanced in the 100m run, along with WSR's Memzie Elieisar, Aliyah Villacrusis, and Rota's Keisa Atalig.

Familiar names are also in the 200m finals list with Woo, Apas, Pangelinan, Elieisar, Villacrusis, and San Nicolas joining Gross. Completing the roster is Rota's Krisha Aguero. Woo, Brasuell, Apas, and Elieisar is entered in the 400m run, too, while Mt. Carmel's Neya Tagabuel also qualified. In the 800m run, Beatrice will be up against her younger sister Windsor, Woo, WSR's Cina Martino, and the representatives of Rota and Tinian.

In the long jump, SIS has three entries in Beatrice, Leilani Ruszala, and Woo, while WSR will be fielding two students—Khristiana Cainiela and Elieisar. Also on the finals list are Brasuell, Apas, and BSS' Sophia Smith.

The Gross sisters, Apas, San Nicolas, Ruszala, Villacrusis, and Woo are also competing in the softball throw. Other qualifiers are WSR's Friella Dela Santa and Althea Demapan.

In the boys U7's softball throw, four qualifiers are from Koblerville—Jephda Hong, Vince Eusebio, Napu Pangelinan, and Justin Defang. Also on the finals list are WSR's Matthew Antatico, Anthony Guzman, and Mahfoh Ahmmad, SIS' Oliver McCallion, and Tinian's Calen Borja.

Hong and Pangelinan also qualified in the long jump along with Kagman's Tatum Jones, MCS' Donald Tagabuel, SCS' Jude Rayphand, Agape's Daniel Huang, and SIS' Andre Guerrero and Daniel Kim.

Guerrero made it to the 1,500m run qualifiers list, too and will be joined by his fellow SIS student, Dean Duenas and Agape's Huang, Ratul Bhuya, Benjamin Cai, and Scott Shi. The trio of Guerrero, Duenas, and Huang will also race in the 800m run and will be up against SIS' Oliver McCallion and William Hasselback and WSR's Landin Reyes.

In the four other running events—60m, 100m, 200m, and 400m—Hong led the qualifiers list. The Koblerville runner will face BSS' Kanoa Owens, Jones, Rayphand, Duenas, Borja, San Vicente's Jeff Pangelinan, and Rota's Jace Barcinas. Borja, Hong, Jones, Owens, Rayphand, McCallion, BSS' Quido Jambor, and Rota's Kody Mendiola are the qualifiers in the 100m race.

In the 200m run, Hong will still go up against McCallion and Borja, while the finals list also includes Guerrero, Duenas, Jeffrey Pangelinan, Rota's Dvaun Ogo, and Koblerville's Worthy Defang. Defang joined Hong in the 400m qualifiers list and they will race against Rayphand, McCallion, Napu Pangelinan, Landin Reyes, and Tinian's Chates Epity.

Meanwhile, the qualifiers in other age groups in the elementary division (U9 and U11) will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* next week.

Yankees rally from 5 runs down to beat Angels

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Clippers stun Warriors again to stay alive

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Agape routs GCA, extends streak

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School eased its way to a victory over Grace Christian Academy, 58-16, in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday at GCA's court.

The Torchbearers were off to the races right in the opening tip to take a commanding 27-4 lead in the first half en route to their eighth win in as many games. While Agape kept its streak, GCA absorbed its second straight defeat and fell to a 3-4 record.

Agape managed to control the game early with its grit and hustle as 8 of its 17 points in the first period came from second-chance shots. The Torchbearers' suffocating defense then stonewalled GCA, as the Eagles didn't score until midway through the second period.

On offense, Jordan Miao scored 6 straight points to start things off for Agape, while David Zheng added 5 points, and Caleb Cai, Eason Tang and Steve Qiu also made it to the board in the first quarter.

Tang and Zheng continued to build on their lead in the second quarter, as the former cleaned up his teammates' misses with two putbacks and the latter glided in for two fast-break layups. Eric Chen made it an 8-0 run for the Torchbearers, as they posted their biggest lead in the first half, 27-0.

The Eagles avoided another shutdown when Ryan Daproza and Justin Du finally hit their target at the halfway mark of the second canto.

Though GCA managed to

See AGAPE on Page 31

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Agape Christian School's Eason Tang takes a point-blank shot against a Grace Christian School defender during their game in the CCOPSA middle school caging yesterday at GCA's court in Navy Hill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Saipan International School student competes in the long jump qualifier of the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

SIS leads qualifiers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International School earned the most qualifying slots in the U7 division of the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

The Geckos bagged 32 berths to the eighth individual events (girls and boys) that will be played in the championships set for May 3 and 4 at the Oleai Sports Complex. William S. Reyes Elementary got the second most entries with 19, while Koblerville Elementary School is at close third with 18 slots. Tinian and Rota also gained qualifying berths along with students from Saipan Community School, San Vicente, Agape Christian School, Kagman, Brilliant Star School, and Mt. Carmel School.

The girls U7 team of SIS will be led by Beatrice Gross, who notched slots in the four running events and two field events. She had the fastest qualifying times in

See SIS on Page 31

'Crank' trains at Team Oyama

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is attending training camp in California to prepare for a possible Ultimate Fighting Championship fight in June.

Camacho is working out with renowned MMA coach Colin Oyama, who has been training top-level fighters for more than two decades and operates the Team Oyama Training Center in Orange County.

"We train two to three times a day and have two days off a week. We do everything from blending in striking to wrestling and grappling. I am here for about six to eight weeks while prepping and locking in a UFC bout," said Camacho, who re-signed a four-fight deal with UFC early this year and is aiming to return to the octagon cage in June.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, poses with other standouts at Team Oyama Training Center in Orange County, California during a break in their training session last week.

"Coach Oyama has coached veterans like UFC light heavyweight champion Quinton Jackson, UFC light heavyweight champ Tito Ortiz, and so much more. The past week has been eye opening," the Marianas warrior said.

Camacho added that he likes the direction of his training session with Oyama.

"I love having the instruction of coach Oyama. I'm a fighter. I know how to fight. But he's showing me the WAY of the fight. Not changing my style, just fine-tuning my techniques and strategies," the 29-year-old said.

At the training camp, Camacho also focuses on his mental strength.

"I want to fully immerse

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